

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 15, 2022, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Stacey Gunderman, Amanda Marano, Mary Misiukiewicz, and Joe Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools, Lauren Zirpoli, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jon Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision, and 28 members of the public.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz led in the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz 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.

#### **COMMENTS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz commented that she hoped everyone had found some time to enjoy the holiday buzz around our schools. Personally, Mrs. Misiukiewicz, found tremendous holiday spirit right here in this building. This past week, our auditoriums had been bursting with holiday classics from our young musicians at Salt Brook School and Allen W. Roberts School and to top it off the High School hosted the final holiday concert of the season which featured the High School choir, High School band, and orchestra. The performances were outstanding. The student's dedication and enthusiasm were on full display and apparent; the sounds of the swinging strings, jazz band, concert band, along with all the vocals, were simply amazing. It was truly a festive evening of music and pure enjoyment watching our talented students. Mrs. Misiukiewicz went on to congratulate the music department faculty and, most of all, the students for their hard work in practicing and preparing for the concerts not only in our buildings but in our community. A special trip was made to go to the DeCorso Center to entertain our Seniors and a performance was given to the Rotary Club of Summit/New Providence. Mrs. Misiukiewicz also mentioned that in the spirit of giving and helping others during the holidays, our students and community have been busy. The music department had collection containers for the NP LINC resource pantry (which is housed at the United Methodist Church here in town). The athletic boosters will also be accepting donations for the LINC resource pantry at all the home High School boys and girls basketball games and our Character Ed program has been busy with a toy drive that benefits the Toys for Tots program.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz also highlighted the artists in our district. Last year the District, in cooperation with the Borough, unveiled the Student Art Exhibit located at the Municipal Building. On December 8th, the District held the 2nd Art Exhibit and we had thirty (30) students and their families in attendance. The gallery features artwork across all four (4) schools. The evening included a warm welcome from Dr. Miceli, an introduction from our Department Head, Mrs. Florencio, and remarks from our art teachers explaining the projects the students were tasked with using different visual art skills, then our students had the

opportunity to describe their individual creative ideas and what empowered them to create their pieces. Mrs. Misiukiewicz encouraged everyone to walk through the gallery in the lobby and in the Lincoln Room. The artwork is incredible, captures and features unique scenes from the Borough of New Providence and the exhibit displays and showcases each and every piece for all to enjoy.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz wished the Board, the administration, faculty, students, and staff a wonderful holiday season with friends and family and hopes the break proves to be peaceful, joyful, and relaxing.

The Board will reconvene on Jan 5, 2023 for our reorganization meeting.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Misiukiewicz and wished everyone a happy holiday season. Dr. Miceli then invited Mr. Carangelo to present the certificates of excellence for the Varsity Tennis team.

### **PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE**

Mr. Carangelo began his presentation by stating that tonight was a special occasion to honor the girls tennis team on their incredible season, then proceeded to name each girl as follows; Lily Lu, Maggie Lu, Maria Armenciu, Gianna Culver, Tanvi Silvester, June Blougouras, Emi Goswami, Coach Marc Willemsen, and Coach Tracey Aroneo. The New Providence girls tennis team completed all season long against the top teams in Union County New Jersey, while the tasks to take on teams twice this season; like Kent Place are ranked sixth overall in the state, or Westfield that is ranked ninth overall in the state, can be very daunting, this is also an incredible opportunity to compete and grow in both the physical and mental aspects of the game. As they have in prior seasons, and perhaps more so this year, our girls tennis team took this task on and relished every chance to grow, improve, and get better all season long. The team entered the state tournament knowing they were battle tested and that they had grown all year against the very best of the best. As such, the team would go on to win the next seven matches in a row to end their season with a combined score of 31-4 during that span. This one not only produced a essential group 1 state sectional championship with a 5-0 victory over Roselle Park but culminated in an overall state championship for the team with the hard fought 3-2 battle against Verona at Mercer County Park at the New Jersey Tennis Championships. This is the fourth ever overall state title for our girls tennis team in New Providence High School history. Furthermore, this marked the teams tenth ever sectional title and the sixth in the last seven seasons, which is an incredible path of excellence. Finally, Coach Willemsen should be commended for being selected as the Union County Coach of the Year in girls tennis for his impressive leadership of this young group. Congratulations players and coaches on this incredible and very special season, you have left your mark on New Providence High School forever and it is my pleasure and the Board's pleasure to award everybody with a certificate of excellence. Mr. Carangelo then proceeded to hand each of the players and coaches their certificate and Mrs. Misiukiewicz and Dr. Miceli proceeded to shake each player and coaches hand to congratulate them. A group picture was taken with the players, coaches, Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Dr. Miceli, and Mr. Carangelo.

### **STUDENT REPORT**

Ms. Marzynski began her report speaking about the Fall play performances. It was a great success, everyone mentioned to Ms. Marzynski that they had a really fun time. Next, is the Spring musical, which the musical department has been working on. Winter sports have started and the teams have been very successful so far, especially the hockey team. Hockey had their first game against Glen Rock on December 9th with a score of 7-5. Brandon Cuccaro (senior) had two assists and Jacob Wachtel (sophomore) had one goal. Hockey also had a great win against West Essex, winning 6-5. Hockey won the State Championship last year, hoping that they have the same success this year. Swimming has had a few meets so far, the boys swim team won their meet against Cranford (92-7); both boys and girls swim team won against Elizabeth, boys won 101-60, girls won 109-61. Last year, the girls basketball team was very successful with a total record 26-3 and they won the Union County tournament and went all the way to the Sectional Finals, the team didn't graduate anyone so we are looking at a super promising season. When pre-season rankings came out, New Providence was ranked eighth in the state for all groups and all teams. Their first basketball game is today, it started about an hour and a half ago against Cranford.

Ms. Marzynski comments that she hasn't received any updates yet on the games. Dr. Miceli then commented that the team was up eighteen points going to the fourth. Ms. Marzynski was excited by the score and then continued to state that this Saturday the team had a super big game against Westfield. They played Westfield three times last year and won each game. The girls basketball team has three away games with home openers December 22nd against Scotch Plains. Boys basketball game started 15 minutes ago against ALJ, with the theme- White Out. They have another home game Saturday at 1:00 p.m. against Dayton and then another home game Tuesday at Governor Livingston. Wrestling has their first match Friday at 6:00 p.m., Home against Plainfield. Indoor track had their first scrimmage last week against Governor Livingston. Next Friday, the students have an early dismissal to start off the holiday break. Ms. Marzynski wished everyone a happy, healthy holiday.

Dr. Miceli thanked Ms. Marzynski for her report and asked to get updates on the games.

### **ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Mrs. Zirpoli reported that from the end of October, the District enrollments are: 665 students at the high school, 400 students at the middle school, 679 students at AWR, 605 students at Salt Brook and 35 students receiving services out of district; for a total of 2,384 students.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Miceli welcomed tonight's guests from the Berkeley Heights Chinese School, Cindy Warme (Vice Principal) and Han Wu (Board Chairperson). This Fall, representatives from the Chinese School reached out to the District looking for a new home for their program here at the New Providence High School. This transition will happen in January. Dr. Miceli invited them tonight, so they could share their thoughts and vision for their program here in the New Providence School District.

Mr. Han Wu began by thanking Dr. Miceli for his introduction. Mr. Wu began by expressing his excitement to be sitting here, it is his first time at New Providence High School. Mr. Wu is a resident of Berkeley Heights, in 2015 he made an offer on a New Providence house but unfortunately the market was too high in New Providence but has not given up yet, hopes to move to New Providence eventually. In 2016, the first year after moving to Berkeley Height, Mr. Wu joined various local parents groups, where he heard that the Chinese community was planning on creating a nonprofit school to deliver diversity of the culture, not only language but enrichment programs. The purpose of setting up this school was to create a platform to have a culture exchange and to help the community learn more about the Chinese community. Some members of the community are immigrants, we may not speak English very well but we are looking to immerse ourselves in the community and to contribute what we can and help each other out, with this platform we can help new members of the community. Before the pandemic, the school had an enrollment of about 300, while looking at the statistics of the enrollments, we saw that 40% of enrollments were coming from New Providence; 40% from Berkeley Heights; and 10% from Watchung and Warren area. We see that the trend is going up and we see that New Providence has huge potential. Unfortunately during the pandemic, we started with issues financially, we had to go virtual with our classes. Many classes can not do well in a virtual environment therefore we lost many enrollments especially in STEM classes. We also provided ESL classes at no cost, no matter from what community. We also had many high school volunteers, so they can achieve their community hours during the weekends. Mr. Wu, on a side note, congratulated the girls tennis team on their achievement and mentioned that two tennis players, Maggie Lu and Lily Lu are proud graduates of the Chinese school. Many local residents attended our New Years celebration. Mr. Wu thanked the New Providence School District and the Board for their support. He hopes the school will have a better future and have a great collaboration with the New Providence School District. He is confident that their enrollment numbers will grow with this collaboration.

Mrs. Cindy Warme, proud resident of New Providence since 2011, began by expressing that she has small children in the district so she has not had the chance to participate much in the Board of Education. Her children have been going to the Chinese School for the past five years. Her family is a more English speaking family but she wanted the Chinese language to be there for her children, so for the past five years her children have been at the Chinese school and it's has been really great, the ESL classes are

great and recently we have some other Chinese schools closer to us that have come to our school. My outlook for this is really not just the Chinese population but also anybody who is open to this culture who wants to learn and is interested. I'm very excited and I'm so proud of our school district for opening up for us because the school was struggling. That's when I was like let me try to help, I was so impressed, so proud, so happy that this was the turn out and I'm really proud to be a New Providence resident. Due to Mrs. Warne getting more involved, the Chinese school offered her a vice principal role in the school. Mrs. Warne accepted and her role is to create strong relationships with the community and the schools and cross culture. Mrs. Warne thanked everyone and wished them a happy holiday.

Dr. Miceli then commented that everyone is looking forward to going to the partnership and anticipate that down the road there will be collaboration on potential courses that we could offer our high school students as the Chinese language has been of interest in the past, and we just have not been able to add an additional language because of all the languages we already currently offer a number of students. Knowing that your teachers are certified and that have had an opportunity to also teach AP, we really look forward to potentially collaborating and creating that relationship and offering courses to your schools.

Mr. Wu then commented that they have many certified teachers that are residents of New Providence.

Dr. Miceli then asked if the Board had any questions for Mr. Wu and Mrs. Warne.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz went on to ask when this transition would take place.

Mr. Wu and Mrs. Warne stated that they were planning to transition this January. Classes will be every Saturday in the afternoon. Hopeful enrollments will come back up. Offering enrichment classes for all ages.

Mrs. Coniglio then commented that she thinks it is great and that she welcomes the Chinese school to the community.

Mrs. Cuccaro also commented that Mrs. Warne is her neighbor and had the opportunity to speak with her before this transition took place. She couldn't be happier that they have found a location that will work out for their school, then congratulated them again.

Dr. Miceli then thanked Mr. Wu and Mrs. Warne again and wished them a goodnight.

Dr. Miceli began with the following update on the referendum:

This evening there are Items 4, 5, 6 and 8 in the finance section of the agenda all related to the referendum. We have been working diligently, and I give Mr. Testa a lot of credit for this; establishing contracts with all of our vendors, which you'll see here this evening. We're pretty much squared away with respect to some professional development and working with the architect, furniture consultants and with the VS; they came to the high school on the December 7th and began to do some professional development with us in regards to the furniture and working with our department heads and administrators, so that is in motion and we have two additional professional development workshops set up for the spring with VS as well. In speaking with Kevin Settembrino, with respect to the projects, we will be able to complete the projects in the summer of 2023 under state contract or via various coop's other than the HVAC projects, at this point it seems like product might be difficult to get here in a timely fashion. It has moved from 18 months out to 10 months out. We will work diligently to get this work done in the summer of 2024. There will be three separate bids, one for each facility related to the HVAC project. Dr. Miceli asked Mr. Testa if he had anything additional to share, Mr. Testa had no further comments.

Dr. Miceli continued his report with the the financial audit update:

Usually in November or December, the auditor would come and review our financial audit with us. They have completed the large majority of their work, but they are still waiting on numbers from the State of New Jersey. Once they receive those final numbers they can complete their process and come deliver to

the Board, hopefully in January. Dr. Miceli then asked if anyone had questions regarding the financial audit.

Seeing no questions Dr. Miceli continued with his report:

Each December we begin the conversation related to the school calendar, we do not formally approve anything tonight, the conversation continues through the next two months and then we approve a calendar at the end of January. At this time we are looking at the 2024/2025 school year, currently we have approved the 2023/2024 calendar which is on the district website and has been disseminated to the community. For the purposes of this evening we are going to be speaking about the 2024/2025 calendar and we have tried to make a commitment to the community to have two years worth of calendars approved for planning purposes. I believe every board member has a copy of the draft calendar. I wanted to talk about the calendar from a number of perspectives, some of which we may not finish discussing tonight. The Education committee met earlier this week and we began having a preliminary conversation around the calendar but there are some items left to be discussed, but in terms of the more traditional elements of the calendar it is very consistent with this years calendar and next years calendar in that we will start school before Labor Day weekend for teachers and students and we will end much earlier in June, this calendar has us getting out Friday, June 13th. Pretty much all the elements to the calendar are consistent with this years and next year's calendar in terms of holidays and snow days. Dr. Miceli then asked if the committee had additional comments. No committee members had comments.

Dr. Miceli continued with two additional aspects of the calendar, firstly, at this time religious holidays will not be something that we will touch on but it is being considered in the background and considering that we are moving forward on our diversity, equity, and inclusion landscape this winter and spring we anticipate the school calendar will be something that we will look at from a community perspective and likely there will be recommendations and comments from community members. At this point, it is not necessary to make any changes to our calendar, but once we go through the landscape and hear more from the community there may be something that we will consider structurally with respect to religious holidays moving forward. Lastly, the two contractual professional development days for our teacher, those days are situated at the onset of the school year in August and we will continue to enjoy those days; we would like to talk skittle bit more about professional development and committee for our staff and look to see whether or not there are some opportunities with respect to the school year to provide out teachers with more slated time where by it is not impacted by classroom time with students. We have a meeting set up for next Thursday to discuss this further. Dr. Miceli asked if there were any additional comments.

Mrs. Coniglio commented that she appreciated the open mindedness on holidays and also looks forward to the continuation of the professional development conversation at the Thursday meeting.

Mrs. Cuccaro followed up by mentioning that this is very consistent with what we have currently in place including the four snow days and this is something that the committee looks at to maximize the amount of time students are in class.

Dr. Miceli then ended the conversation by stating that the calendar will be approved at the end of January.

Dr. Miceli moved on to the next topic of the ESSER Winter Program; he wanted to update the Board on what has been going on administratively. As the Board is aware, the school district has significant funds from the federal government in respect to ESSER to provide services to our students, specifically related to COVID and lost opportunities at that time. Administration has been working hard this past fall to identify students that are in the greasiest need at this point. We have identified these students at each school and we would like to come back with another program this winter into spring. We have talked about having a program in the winter and a program in the spring exclusively and then going into a summer program, but after some further conversation we thought of merging and making one program a little bit longer and then evaluating the outcome of that program and making some decisions whether there would be subsequent programs after state testing. The program is designed to start on January 9th and go until April 3rd. It will end before spring break. We think that will give our staff and students enough time to work exclusively on the skill set they need to master and then we evaluate things again for the end of the year.

The plan is to notify those families and students over the next couple of days and give them that opportunity to enroll in the program and if we don't hear from those families before the break the various administrators in the buildings will be reaching out to those students and families indicating the priority of beginning this program. What we are hoping to be able to do is have a 1:1 or 1:2 instruction, one teacher to one/two students and offer before or after school programming. We are very committed to this and have posted this to our staff and received great feedback from them, so we are hoping to provide as much individual attention to these identified students for the longest period of time as possible and then re-evaluate again in April. Dr. Miceli then asked if anyone had any particular questions.

Mrs. Marano asked what has been the response been from teachers for being able to accommodate these programs? In past years there have been issues in getting staff to be able to work the programs.

Dr. Miceli responded that one of the things that we have grappled with is the hourly rate that had been afforded that has been consistent with the contractual obligations that had already been established, and due to the nature of this program; trying to individualize it as much as possible; and the going rate of tutoring from an individual perspective that a lot of our teachers do; we were not getting much of a response. Also teachers, with the substitute shortage, are in constant coverage mode, they are doing the work that they need to do with respect to their own teaching obligations and then they are being asked to cover during their lunch and prep period since we do not have substitutes. Their workload and stress level is pretty high, so there isn't necessarily this sense of comfort right now to go beyond and do the additional work, particularly on a daily basis after school or before school. At the central office, we talked about this and decided to raise the rate, the contractually rate was \$54 an hour and we have moved it up to \$75 an hour. And put that out to the staff on the job posting, as a result we got more teachers that were willing to contribute to the program. At this time, we are a little short at the high school but at both elementary schools and the middle school we have a significant amount of teachers that are interested in offering students. In circumstances in which we may not have enough teachers in certain subjects, we will make the ratio to 1:3 or 1:4 if possible. Dr. Miceli made it very clear that if families are contacted and invited to be a part of the program, it is because we have concerns and we want to make sure that we get students up to speed. We are very optimistic, and are hoping to tie up loose ends in the following weeks and in the first week of January if there are still some loose ends, and get the program rolling the following Monday.

Mrs. Gunderman asked if this program is especially for academics or is it also for social emotional learning.

Dr. Miceli responded that it would be for language arts and math.

Dr. Miceli then continued with the next item: the high school grading system;

Over the past ten years here has been a conversation around the current grading system that we have at the high school and a number of different pros and cons if you will, actually probably five years ago when Mrs. Zirpoli was the high school principal, she created a committee and started to have the conversation around the grading system, and then we kind of got derailed because of covid and Mr. Henry over the past year has been working with a committee of staff to revisit this topic and we got into a good place with the recommendation to make some changes. We shared those changes with the committee earlier this week and essentially it will provide a lot more opportunity for students throughout all the different course offerings that we have. For example, there will be some additional waiting to an AP class whereas right now if you take an honors class or an AP class their is a similar waiting, their will be a difference between the waiting with respect to honors and AP and overall the system has a little bit more of a positive slant to it; prior there were grades and then minuses, and now this new structure offers pluses and minuses and the regular whole grade. In doing so the statistics around each of our current high school student; who in the rollover of this, and we're planning to do that this coming summer, no student would be put into a disadvantageous position their GPA would remain either equal or better to what it currently is and would offer more opportunities and for students to excel at those higher courses and more rigorous courses. We plan to do that rollover over the summer and then for all freshmen entering, they would come into the system as well. Some may ask why we aren't just grandfathering in the existing students and starting with a new class, the issue with that is, as you probably know we have a large majority of our courses at the

high school that have multi grades in them and so if you have a class with multi grades, you have some students on a different grading system and other students and another grading system it makes it more complex for those teachers and the students involved in that manner. This will allow for everyone simultaneously to draw over to the new system, and then track that accordingly over the years. We have discussed this at length with the committee and Mr. Henry is planning to push this out to parents and students in January with a new program of studies and then we would make that change over the summer in terms of everyone's GPA's and begin implementing it in September.

Dr. Miceli asked if anyone had any questions regarding this matter and there were no comments. Dr. Miceli then stated that he would give Mr. Henry received the feedback from the meeting and he will begin the process of creating a resolution for the agenda in January to approve the new grading system.

Dr. Micel then updated the Board about the water main break that occurred at the high school on Thanksgiving. It was fixed and Mr. Testa did submit the claim to our insurance company and they are going to reimburse us for \$10,000.00, as the total amount to make the repair was \$29,400.00.

Dr. Miceli moved on to speak about full-day kindergarten that is on the agenda, Item #3. It will be approved and will be ready to start next year. We also have the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) landscape contract on the agenda as well for approval. We have also received a recommendation from Ms. Shadis, our Director of School Counseling, about concerns related to the Naviance program that we have been using for many years. Unfortunately, they have not updated their software and their program and there have been a number of glitches and issues we have been grappling with. Many schools have been disappointed with their lack of evolution, including us, so Ms. Shadis has done some research and we're planning to move over to Scoir, which is a new system that is a little bit more advanced and more student friendly. We will continue our subscription with Naviance for the rest of the year but will begin to transition to Scoir.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz opened the meeting to the public at 7:54 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:54 p.m.

Mrs. Morano moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting: November 17, 2022  
Closed Meeting: November 17, 2022

Mrs. Gunderman Seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

**ACTION ITEMS**  
**FINANCE ACTIONS**

Mr. Walsh, Finance Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 10 as listed below:

**BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT APPROVED**

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for November 2022. 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 December 2022, in the amount of \$ 2,880,806.04.

**ACCOUNT TRANSFERS APPROVED**

3. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2022/2023 school year.

<b><u>November 2022</u></b>		
From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-562	Tuition- LEA in NJ	\$329,500.00
11-000-100-563	Tuition- Vocational	4,000.00
11-000-262-100	Salaries- Custodians	803.00
11-000-291-270	Employee Benefits	60,000.00
11-150-100-100	Salaries- Home Instruction	1,400.00
12-000-261-730	Capital- HS Equipment	19,400.00
		Total: \$415,103.00
To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-564	Tuition- Vocational, SE	\$ 4,000.00
11-000-100-566	Tuition- Private Schools in NJ	59,500.00
11-000-262-199	Unused Vacation Payments	803.00
11-000-270-515	Transportation- Contracted Serv	330,000.00
11-150-100-320	Purchased Professional Services	1,400.00
12-000-400-450	Capital- HS Construction	19,400.00
		Total: \$415,103.00

**FITZPATRICK & MERRITT POST-REFERENDUM LEGAL SERVICES APPROVED**

4. Approve the Fitzpatrick & Merritt as Bond Counsel for post-referendum legal services as per N.J.S.A.-18A:18A-5, on fee basis not to exceed \$50,000.00.

**SETTEMBRINO ARCHITECTS POST-REFERENDUM ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES APPROVED**

5. Approve Settembrino Architects for post-referendum architectural services as per N.J.S.A.-18A:18A-5, on a fee basis not to exceed \$1,463,396.00 plus reimbursable expenses.

**DONOHUE, GIRONDA, DORIA & TOMKINS, LLC POST-REFERENDUM SERVICES APPROVED**

6. Approve Donohue, Gironda, Doria & Tomkins, LLC for post-referendum services to update the official statement for the upcoming bond sale as per N.J.S.A.-18A:18A-5, on a fee basis not to exceed \$10,000.00.



**DONATION TO THE NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1960 SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPROVED**

- 7. Approve the generous donation to the New Providence High School Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$ 1,545.00.

**BOND INTEREST RESOLUTION APPROVED**

- 8. Approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence in the County of Union, in the State of New Jersey as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the legal voters of New Providence approved a bond proposal at a special election on November 8, 2022, and

**WHEREAS**, the bond proposal included the following statement: The Board is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this election, by resolution, the Board may appropriate interest earnings, capital reserves, or general fund surplus if needed for the projects; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Education hereby approves the appropriation of bond interest earnings to the Project as approved by the legal voters of New Providence. In the event that the Project is funded fully, excess interest earnings will be handled as per State regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the appropriation of bond interest earnings shall be in effect for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 school years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to allocate bond interest earnings to the approved Project.

**REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PER PUPIL FEES APPROVED**

- 9. 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 2022/2023 school year, as follows:

Pre-School Disabled (Half Day Program)	\$21,740.00
Pre-School Disabled (Full Day Program)	\$46,139.00
Early Primary LLD-1	\$27,247.00
Primary LLD-2	\$47,845.00
Primary LLD-3	\$28,493.00
LLD-5	\$39,043.00
Middle School Resource Center	\$17,769.00
High School Resource Center	\$19,748.00

**TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT APPROVED**

- 10. Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Morris Union Jointure Commission and the New Providence School District for the 2022/2023 extended school year as stated below:

**Route**

992

**Aide Annum**

\$ 27,604.72

Mr. Walsh commented on Items 4, 5, and 6. He and the finance committee met with Dr. Miceli and Mr. Testa regarding the contracts that will be approved tonight.

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

**FACILITIES ACTION**

Mr. Walsh, Finance Chairperson, moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

**DISPOSAL OF TRACTOR APPROVED**

1. Approve the disposal of the 2004 McCormick Grounds Tractor, NP ID #101657, as it is unrepairable.

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

**EDUCATION ACTION**

Mrs. Coniglio, Education Committee Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 8 as listed below:

**ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #42255 AT THE NEWARK SCHOOL, INC. APPROVED**

1. Approve the enrollment of Student #42255 at The Newmark School, Inc., for the 2022/2023 school year, at a tuition cost of \$43,386.25, effective 12/01/22.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT #11192 APPROVED**

2. Approve the settlement agreement for Student #11192, copies in the hands of each Board member.

**2023/2024 FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PLAN APPROVED**

3. Approve the District's Full-Day Kindergarten plan for the 2023/2024 school year.

**AGREEMENT WITH US<sup>2</sup> CONSULTING, INC APPROVED**

4. Approve the District's Agreement with US<sup>2</sup> Consulting, Inc. for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consulting services, including an Equity Landscape, during the 2022/2023 school year, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 plus travel expenses.

**DR. ROMAN KULIKOV TO PERFORM NEUROLOGICAL/NEURODEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATIONS APPROVED**

5. Approve Dr. Romana Kulikov, pediatric neurologist, to perform neurological/neurodevelopmental evaluations for the 2022/2023 school year for the following fees:
  - a. Evaluation in the office, \$500.00
  - b. Evaluation in the school, \$600.00
  - c. Electroencephalogram if needed, \$380.00
  - d. Computerized baseline neurocognitive/attention test if needed, \$200.00

**EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT CONSOLIDATED GRANT APPLICATION AMENDMENT SUBMISSION APPROVED**

6. Approve the submission and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant Application Amendment for Title IIA (\$36,414.00), Title III Immigrant (\$16,290.00), and Title III Consortium with Springfield Board of Education (\$9,602.00), funds totaling \$62,306.00 for the period 7/1/22 through 6/30/23.

**ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #10398 AT THE CAREER CENTER OF SCEC APPROVED**

7. Approve the enrollment of Student #10398 at The Career Center of SCEC, for the 2022/2023 school year, at a tuition cost of \$71,845.00, effective 12/1/22.

**REVISED TUITION FOR STUDENT 19134 APPROVED**

8. Approve the revised tuition for student 19134 to include extraordinary services in the at the Phoenix Center, Inc., for the 2022/2023 school year, at a cost of \$20,764.00, effective 12/14/22.

Mrs. Gunderman Seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

**PERSONAL ACTION**

Mrs. Cuccaro, Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 4 as listed below:

**2022/2023 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 2022/2023 school year:
  - a. Michele Picarelli, AWR STEM club advisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, \$2,064.00
  - b. Denise Thompson, chemical hygiene officer, 20 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - c. Laina Magnani, chemical hygiene officer, 20 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - d. Peter Schaefer, HS math team advisor, \$2,064.00
  - e. Russell Anderson, gameworker
  - f. Marc Willemssen, 1:1 personal aide for co-curricular athletics, \$20.00/hr., effective 12/16/22
  - g. Michael Abrams, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
  - h. Laura Hays, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)

**2022/2023 RESIGNATIONS APPROVED**

2. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
  - a. Cathie Morgan, effective 2/28/23, due to retirement
  - b. Carminda Bandeira, effective 2/3/23

**2022/2023 REVISIONS APPROVED**

3. Approve the following revisions for the 2022/2023 school year:
  - a. Mary Housel, long term substitute athletic trainer, \$44,919.00 (base \$78,119.00), effective 10/3/22 through 3/21/23
  - b. David Aprill, long term substitute teacher, \$40,557.00 (base \$57,939.00), effective 9/1/22 through 3/31/23

4. Rescind the following appointment for the 2022/2023 school year:
  - a. Steven Siracusa, baseball (spring), boys, second assistant, \$5,231.00

Mrs. Coniglio Seconded the motion.

Dr. Miceli took a moment to thank Mrs. Morgan for all her years of service. She has been a tremendously helpful instructional aide for our special education programs and for a number of our special education students for many years. Thank you and good luck in retirement.

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

**BOARD POLICY**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz moved to approve the policies and regulation in the absence of Mrs. Killea.

Mr. Walsh seconded this motion.

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

**Bylaws and Policies:**

Policy 0143.2 (Mandated)	High School Student Representative to the Board of Education (Killea)	New
Policy 0163 (Recommended)	Quorum (Killea)	Revised
Policy 1511 (Mandated)	Board of Education Website Accessibility (Killea)	New
Policy 2415 (Mandated)	Every Student Succeeds Act (Killea)	Revised
Policy 2432 (Mandated)	School Sponsored Publications (Killea)	Abolished
Policy 5512 (Mandated)	Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (Killea)	Revised

Policy 5513 (Mandated)	Care of School Property (Killea)	Revised
Policy 5517 (Mandated)	School District Issued Student Identification (Killea)	New
Policy 5722 (Mandated)	Student Journalism (Killea)	New
<b><u>Administrative Regulations</u></b>		
Regulation 5513 (Mandated)	Care of School Property (Killea)	Revised

Mr. Walsh Seconded the motion.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz stated the following: As mentioned we have nine policies, eight of the policies are mandated, and one policy is recommended and we have four policies that are revisions. One policy is abolished, but replaced by a new policy and we have four new policies on this agenda tonight and one revision to an administrative regulation. Mrs. Misiukiewicz went on to make comments on the four new policies. She began with policy number 0143.2 that is about the high school student representative, the Board of Education as you know, we do have a student representative, but this policy specifies that the student body must appoint the student representative to serve as a non-voting student representative on the board so currently our student representative is not appointed by the student body, that will be a change. The second policy number 1511 is about the Board of Education website accessibility. This policy states that the District's internet websites must be accessible to individuals with disabilities. A new policy 5517 about District issued student IDs. This policy states that all students grade 7-12 must have printed on the back of their ID and the telephone number for the New Jersey Suicide Prevention Hopeline and contact information. Just so the community is aware, ID cards here in New Providence are given to students grades 9-12 and I spoke with Mrs. Zirpoli earlier today in anticipation of this policy coming up. This change has already been implemented here in New Providence. The last policy that is a new policy, number 5722, is titled Student Journalism. This policy replaces policy 2432 that's abolished. The difference here with policy number 2432 is that it only addressed school sponsored publications, the new policy indicates any student journal journalist, so it's also inclusive to any school sponsored publication. Mrs. Misiukiewicz wrote down a few comments about this policy; this emphasizes the importance of awarding students the opportunity to exercise their creative passion and constitutionally protected freedom of speech. The policy outlines five expressions that are prohibited and this policy also does allow for an appeal process by the students. The policies are updated on the website.

Mrs. Coniglio asked about how the student representative was selected before this new policy.

Dr. Miceli responded that it was the Student Council President or the Senior Class President that was selected to be the Student Representative. Ms. Marzynski will continue to be this year's student representative.

Mrs. Cuccaro wanted to comment on policy 5517, she stated that it is amazing how something so small could be so impactful and is very happy that we are implementing this.

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology**

Mrs. Coniglio mentioned that the committee has met about the new grading system and will be meeting again for the school calendar.

#### **Finance, facilities, and Safety/Security**

Mr. Walsh had no other comments other than his previous comments about the contracts

#### **Personnel, Management, and Communication**

Mrs. Cuccaro had no comments

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz mentioned that the reorganization meeting is coming up on January 5th.

Mrs. Testa commented that from the county office we reviewed the official election results, in the hands of the board members, and stated that at the reorganization meeting in January, Mrs. Cuccaro and Mr. Walsh will be sworn in for their new term. Additionally, the bond referendum was passed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business. Mrs. Coniglio took the time to tell a story. As a music parent, she appreciated those who came out to the concert last night, it meant a lot to parents, students, and staff. Today, one of the employees from ACME came up to her with a gigantic box of socks and she asked Mrs. Coniglio if there was anything that the school could do with the socks and afterwards Mrs. Coniglio ran into a parent that let her know that there was a sock donation drive that the middle school is doing. Wishing everyone a happy holiday.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz opened the meeting to the public at 8:06 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:06 p.m. and asked for a motion to move to closed session to discuss matters related to HIB.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mrs. Coniglio moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on December 15, 2023 at 8:07 p.m. 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:

- Student matters related to HIB

The minutes of the discussion in closed session of the aforementioned matters may be disclosed to the public after final determination of action has been reached.

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

**RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

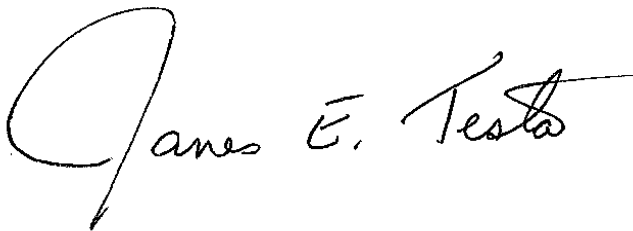
The Board reconvened to a public session at 8:45 p.m.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz called the Board to order.

Members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Marano, Mrs. Misiukiewicz and Mr. Walsh.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Marano, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



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**James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary**