



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Retreat Board Meeting Saturday, August 20, 2022

Vice President Santana convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. The meeting was held remotely with audio and video access provided to members of the Board and the public.

**I. Call to Order (Reading of Statement) Ms. Brenda Liss**

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by advertising in the "Star-Ledger, Haiti Progress, Luso Americano and La Voz" newspapers and by distribution to administrative offices of the Newark Public Schools. Electronic notice was provided by posting on the Newark Board of Education website. A copy of this meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

**II. Flag Salute**

**III. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, and Ms. Santana

**Board Member Absent:**

Daniel Gonzalez

**Board Members Arrived After Roll Call:**

Ms. Haynes and Ms. Williams, approximately – 9:15 a.m.

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

Ms. Nicole T. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary (left at 10:30 a.m.)

Mr. Arsen Zartarian, Assistant General Counsel (Board Secretary from 10:30 a.m. to adjournment)

Ms. Valerie Wilson, School Business Administrator

Ms. Nancy Deering, Director of Board Relations

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana, to amend the agenda to move Executive Session to item IV.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Santana	
<b>Yeas:</b>	Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, and Ms. Santana.	<b>6</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	None	<b>0</b>
<b>Abstentions:</b>		<b>0</b>

**Motion Carried by voice vote.**

**IV. Executive Session**

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Council, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and matters within the attorney client privilege.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Santana	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Mr. Council	
<b>Yeas:</b>	Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, and Ms. Santana.	6
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>		0

**Motion Carried by voice vote.**

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:10 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE ATTACHED.**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to reconvene in open session. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

<b>Moved:</b>	Mr. Council	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Yeas</b>	Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Haynes.	8
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstention:</b>	None	0

**Motion carried.**

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:38 a.m. The following Board members were present: Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams and Ms. Haynes.

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to amend the agenda to address Items 5.1 and 5.2 before the Superintendent's report.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Haynes	
<b>Yeas:</b>	Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams and Ms. Haynes	8
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>		0

**Motion Carried by voice vote.**

**V. Voting**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve Item 5.1.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia

**Seconded:** Ms. Santana

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas:** Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams and Ms. Haynes. **8**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Abstentions:** **0**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana to approve Item 5.2.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia

**Seconded:** Ms. Santana

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas:** Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams and Ms. Haynes. **8**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Abstentions:** **0**

**VI. Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following:

- COVID-19 Update
- EdResearch for Recovery
- National Teacher Shortage
- ESSER I, II and III

Ms. Rochanda Jackson, Director of Policy, Planning: Evaluation, And Testing, presented the attendance summary, achievement summary, school culture and student wellness.

Mr. Mathew Brewster, Director of Staff Development, presented on Summer Programs 2022.

Board Members' questions were answered by Ms. Jackson and Mr. León.

Board Member Williams left the meeting at approximately 12:10 p.m.

**VII. Public Participation**

Mr. Zartarian reviewed the guidelines for public participation. The comments of the following speakers can be found on the Newark Board of Education's website under Board Meeting video archives:

No members of the public requested an opportunity for public participation.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Haynes moved, seconded by Ms. Norton, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

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The following board members were present at adjournment: Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.

Submitted by:



Renee Martinez, Board Relations

Reviewed by:



Brenda C. Liss, General Counsel

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent



Roger León  
Superintendent

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## Minutes of Executive Session Saturday, August 20, 2022

The Board convened in executive session at 9:10 a.m.

### **Board Members Present:**

Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton and Ms. Santana

### **Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Gonzalez

### **Administrative Staff Present:**

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent  
Ms. Nicole Johnson, Deputy Superintendent  
Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary  
Mr. Arsen Zartarian, Assistant General Counsel  
Ms. Valerie Wilson, School Business Administrator

### **Matters Within the Attorney-Client Privilege**

Board members discussed status of legal matters pertaining to real estate and leases. Board member's questions were answered by Mr. León, Ms. Liss and Ms. Wilson.

### **Personnel**

Mr. León gave an update regarding certain staffing and personnel matters.