



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Committee Report

Board Development and Governance Committee

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	11/21/22	5:00 PM
Board Members		
D. Haynes, Board President	V. Santana, Co-Vice President	
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
B. Liss, General Counsel	R. León, Superintendent	
Other District Staff		
H. Nazario, Chief of Staff	P. Luke, Executive Legal Assistant	
N. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent	V. Wilson, School Business Administrator	
N. Deering, Director of Board Relations	K. Montalbano, Executive Assistant	
Guests		
N/A		
Meeting Summary		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Committee received reports from the Superintendent and staff on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan Quarterly Report</i> - Budget: Quarterly Report and FY 2023-24 - NJQSAC - Newark Enrolls - Charter Schools: Reports, Requests, Leases - Legal Matters - Robert Wood Foundation Grant <p>Call to Order: 5:04 PM Adjournment: 7:40 PM</p>		

Item: *The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan Quarterly Report*

Lead(s): N. Johnson

Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Deputy Johnson presented a summary of the quarterly report on implementation of the district's strategic plan, *The Next Decade: 2020-30*. The quarterly report includes highlights and deliverables achieved in each of the plan's six priorities in Year 3, Quarter 1 of the plan's implementation. The full report will be presented to the board and the public at this month's board meeting. Deputy Johnson also noted that each strategy in the strategic plan is to be implemented in five separate time intervals across five critical

points in time: Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, and Year 10. School year 2022-23 is Year 3. A full report of highlights and deliverables achieved through Year 3 will be forthcoming.

Item: Budget: Quarterly Report and FY 2023-24	
Lead(s): V. Wilson	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

School Business Administrator Wilson presented a preview of the Quarterly Financial Report to be presented to the board and the public at this month's board meeting. The report is for the first quarter of this fiscal year, based on data and information obtained to date. Among other things, it shows anticipated savings totaling approximately 9 million dollars in the categories of charter school payments, supplies, purchased services, and pupil transportation, based on activity to date, but subject to change in the remainder of the year. The reduction in charter school payments, in the amount of \$2,680,344, is the result of the reconciliation which is required to be conducted in the fall, based on actual enrollment rather than the projections provided in the prior year, and reflects reduction in overall charter school enrollment. The Superintendent noted that the Quarterly Financial Report to the board is not required by any law or regulation; it was a requirement of the transition plan for local control which is no longer in effect, but is a good governance practice that the Board has decided to continue to implement.

Item: NJQSAC	
Lead(s): R. León, N. Johnson	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent León and Deputy Johnson reported that the district's responses to the New Jersey QSAC District Performance Review were submitted in advance of the deadline, November 15. As discussed at last month's board meeting, the diligent review of DPR indicators and supporting documentation resulted in scores of 100% in four of the five QSAC components (operations, fiscal management, personnel, and governance). In the fifth component (instruction and program), 40% of the scores is based on district review, and all available points were received in that portion; and the other 60% is provided by the State, based on the district's participation rate and performance on state standardized tests. The State's review of all the components, including its portion of the instruction and program review, will be conducted in the coming months.

Item: Newark Enrolls	
Lead(s): R. León, H. Nazario	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

The very successful All Schools Fair was held on November 5, 2022, kicking off the enrollment period which goes from November 5, to February 3. To date, more than 7,700 applications have been submitted through the Newark Enrolls universal enrollment system. Auditions will be held in January for students applying to Arts, Barringer, and East Side High Schools. High school admissions tests will be held on January 10 and 17 for students currently in district schools, and January 11 and 18 for students attending non-district schools. Six charter schools have indicated that they will not continue to participate in Newark Enrolls this year. We have not received notice of any charter amendment requests from these schools. However, we are encouraged that they are on a mission to enroll and serve students with IEPs requiring specialized programs for Emotional Regulation Impairment (ERI), Learning Disabilities – Mild to Moderate, Learning Disabilities – Severe, Cognitive Impairment – Mild, Autism, and Multiple Disabilities, as well as English Language Learners. The Committee discussed possible next steps and encouraged the Superintendent to take whatever action is needed to protect the interests of the district and all students in these matters.

Item: Charter Schools: Reports, Requests, Leases	
Lead(s): R. León, B. Liss	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Five charter schools have submitted renewal requests to the Department of Education, seeking to renew their charters for additional five-year terms, through 2028. Those schools are Discovery, Maria L. Varisco-Rogers, New Horizons, and Newark Educators Community Charter Schools, and Marion P. Thomas Charter School. None have requested enrollment increases or any significant change in their operations.

University Heights Charter School, whose charter was revoked in June 2022, was the owner of property that is in foreclosure. The mortgage holder and the independent trustee for the school are jointly engaging in the sale of the property. The Schools Development Authority has submitted a bid to purchase the property on behalf of the Board of Education. Results of the bid process are expected to be received at the end of this month.

People’s Prep Charter School continues to occupy space at the location shared with Bard Early College High School. Committee members discussed what action, if any, to take regarding this matter, and agreed that the administration should take any action needed to provide the full school space to Bard, which is experiencing increased enrollment demand.

Item: Legal Matters	
Lead(s): R. León, B. Liss	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

General Counsel Liss reported on two matters as to which approval is sought this month’s board meeting:

- (1) Resolution Approving the Appointment of Antonelli, Kantor, Rivera, P.C. as Outside Counsel in Assigned Matters and Authorizing a Professional Services Contract. This item would authorize the appointment of the law firm which one attorney currently authorized to represent the Board is moving. The new firm would be authorized this month to allow him to provide continued service without interruption, on the same terms as previously authorized for his and other law firms.
- (2) Resolution Approving Settlement of Grievance with NTU and Employee No. 39742 and Directing Its Implementation in Accordance with Its Terms. This item authorizes settlement of a grievance without admitting any violation and in exchange for a release submitted by a former employee.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend approval of both matters by the full board.

Item: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant	
Lead(s): R. León	Priority/Strategy:

The district has received a grant in the amount of \$25,000 as a result of the Superintendent’s participation in a panel discussion at a program held by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The funds will be applied to programs for the benefit of district students. A resolution accepting the grant is on the agenda for this month’s board meeting as a Finance item.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.