



# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Committee Report

Committee Name:

### Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee Meeting

September 19, 2022

Location	Date	Time
Virtual via WEBEX	September 19, 2022	5:36p.m.- 7:18p.m.
Board Members		
Committee Chair, Flohisha Johnson	Crystal Williams	
Vice-Committee Chair Josephine Garcia		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Carolyn Granato, Assistant Superintendent	Samantha Lott-Velez,	
Other District Staff		
Michelina Thornton Parent Engagement	Rashon Dwight, HIB Coordinator	
Mary L Harvey, Director OSL	Edwin Mendez, Director, Office of Attendance	
Mary Garripoli , Supervisor, OSL	Darrell Major, Manager Specialist	
Nicole Johnson, Deputy Superintendent	Havier Nazario, Chief of staff	
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
<p>Flohisha Johnson opened the September 19, 2022 Parent Engagement and Student Life Committee Meeting at 5:36 p.m.</p> <p><b>New Business:</b> An overview of the 2022-2023 <b>NJQSAC</b> process was introduced by Carolyn Granato, Assistant Superintendent. The overview included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of NJQSAC</li><li>• 5 Areas Measured by NJQSAC</li><li>• NJQSAC Committee Members</li><li>• Submission Requirements and Dates</li><li>• Crossover Indicators pertaining to PESL</li></ul> <p>A link to the <i>NJQSAC User Manual</i> was provided to all committee members.</p> <p><b>Updates:</b></p> <p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p>Edwin Mendez, Director of Attendance, shared recommendations and guidance regarding “What Parents can to do improve attendance and ensure children are ready to learn”, with committee members. These guidelines will be shared with families and community members. District HIB Coordinator Rashon Dwight gave an update on the final 2021-2022 district data.</p>		

## **Updates Continued**

### **Truancy Task Force (TTF)**

Darrell Major, Manager Specialist of Truancy Task Force explained the mission and functions of the Truancy Task Force. He informed the committee of the following 2022-2023 initiatives:

- Regional Truancy Task Force collaboration with surrounding districts
- Collaboration with the Newark Police Department, two police officers accompany our Truancy Team daily.
- Truancy Task Force Safe Passages Initiative
- Truancy Task Force Hotline, distributed to local businesses, residents, and community.
- Truancy Task Force Social Worker for follow up, interventions, and family support

### **Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)**

Rashon Dwight, District HIB Coordinator reviewed the purpose and process of HIB reporting. He informed the committee of the following updates:

- Attended training to understand the major changes in NJ HIB Law
- Provided HIB overview training for School Support Staff, including updates to NJ HIB laws
- Collaborating with the General Counsel Department to include NJ HIB Law updates in district HIB policy
- Distributed new NJDOE-created HIB 338 Forms to school Anti-Bullying Specialists

### **Parent Engagement**

Michelina Thornton, Director of Parent Engagement and Federal Grants presented the following updates to the committee:

- Office of Federal Programs & Grants partnered with Amerigroup to host a Back to School Resource fair. It was held on September 8th at Mt. Vernon School. All schools in the South and West wards were invited. There were many community organizations participating with over 1,500 participants who received backpacks, school supplies, books, groceries and resources.
- Parent Engagement Team hosted 2 professional development sessions for parent liaisons.
  1. August 31st - *Topics:* Title I, Grants and Parent Resource rooms
  2. September 13th - *Topics:* Parent Portal, Parent Resources, Action Plans
- Parent University - Fall sessions are all self-paced learning modules on the district website. Parents can find videos on 9 different topics:
  1. Orientation to NBOE; Technology; Curriculum & Instruction; Health & Wellness; Social Emotional Learning & Mental Wellness; Parenting; High School/Post-Secondary; General Studies & Skill Development.
- Parent Resource rooms - Each school was asked to identify a space for parents and families. We will continue working with parent liaisons to ensure all rooms have resources for families.

- Community Resource Directory - This online platform is now on the district website that includes information on community organizations for housing, food, and other needs to help bring resources to families.

#### Office of Student Life:

Mary Leigh Harvey, Director of Student Life provided the following OSL updates:

- The *Mindright* pilot is begin with a launch meeting on September 20th with select high school staff.
- Through Youth Development Clinic, Effective Schools Solutions, and Supreme Consultants, clinicians continue to be interviewed and recommended as contingent workers to support student mental health and wellness. Clinicians will provide school based counseling services to students. These organizations will also as support to teachers and parents by providing workshops. Additionally, clinicians will coach schools on the effectiveness of their referral process and school-wide support team structures to address the trends that impede learning.
- Provided McKinney Vento initial overview training to school-based support staff, i.e. school counselors and social worker 2s.
- Collaborating with local agencies to secure presenters for the 22-23 SY McKinney-Vento Resource Hour.
- Mentor Newark provided mentor coordinator and mentee training sessions with Bard Early College to assist with their peer-to-peer mentoring program.
- Grant applications were submitted the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention and NJ CAP - Bully Prevention programs. The participating schools are Abington Avenue School, McKinley Elementary School, Rafael Hernandez School, Harriet Tubman School.
- Staff from the Office of Student participated in the School Based Community Resource Fair at Mount Vernon on September 8, 2022.
- As part of National Hispanic Heritage month and to promote and advocate for Anti-bullying, staff from OSL participated and assisted participating schools, Abington, Chancellor, Harriet Tubman, Oliver and Speedway in the Anti-Bullying March held on September 14, 2022.

Committee Chair Flohisha Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:18p.m.