



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, October 28, 2021

President Dawn Haynes convened the meeting at approximately 6:01 p.m. The meeting was held virtually 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 the meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

II. **Flag Salute**

III. **Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Vereliz Santana, Ms. Haynes and Student Representative Kimberly Gonzalez.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent
Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary
Ms. Valerie Wilson, School Business Administrator
Ms. Nicole T. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Nancy Deering, Director of Board Relations

IV. **Recognitions**

Ms. León recognized the following:

Second Gentleman Meets East Side High School Students

Isabella Gonzales	Aniya Mahfood-Shockness
Alexis Orozco	Sarah Alvarez
Derick Rainho	Melisa DeAlmeida
Abdoullah Nour Gueu	

Malcolm Shabazz High school Marching Band Welcomes President Obama

Daylia Hollis Garman	Olamiposi Situade	Jaylen Baptiste
Samiyah Kinchen	Tariq Ellis	Tayleyah Barnhill
Amabo Rijkaa Nditor	Saniyah Lawrence	Shamira Canty-Eagon
Mustakeem Obayonii	Sadiyyah Redding	Jeremiah Emanuel
Tanjah Baker	El-Shaddai Hylton	Dwayne Clyburn
Da'naye Covington	Alana Syphus	Majid Stevenson
Talyor Lovelace	Slylar Lovelace	Chelsea Mensah

London McIver	Khamiyah Mentor	Michael Davis
Andre Farmer	Travis Thorton	Mahki Harris
Almass Harris	Meione Harris	Laila Harris
Ta'khiy Sanders	Dashawn Mcarthur	Saliah King
Sanye Kinchen	Saniyah Vandiver	Kasire Strong
Zora Lovelace	Clarence Brown	Kajalah Liles
Zhymylah dockey	Emira Robinson	Zamiya Solomon
Aminah Mack	Elijah Eley	Quadirah Scott
Nicole Garcia	Zaniyah Mentor	Kayla Sneed
Suriyyah Covington	Nakimah Williams	Ted-D-Anne Martinez
Janniya Coleman	Renee Battles	Kevin Curry

Macy's, Inc. Donation to Newark School of Fashion & Design

Reebok Awards - 24 Newark Public Schools with PE Grants

Hawkins Street Elementary School	Oliver Street Elementary School
Louise A. Spencer Elementary School	Science Park High School
Wilson Avenue Elementary School	Ann Street Elementary School
Sir Isaac Newton Elementary School	Harriet Tubman Elementary School
Michelle Obama Elementary School	NJ Regional Day School - Newark
Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School	Luis Munoz Marin Elementary School
Elliott Street Elementary School	South 17 th Street Elementary School
Roberto Clemente Elementary School	Ivy Hill Elementary School
East Ward Elementary School	Benjamin Franklin Elementary School
Speedway Avenue Elementary School	Quitman Street Elementary School
First Avenue Elementary School	Park Elementary School
Ridge Street Elementary School	Abington Avenue Elementary School

V. Committee Reports

Operations Committee Report - Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia reported that the following items were discussed at the Operations Committee meeting:

1. Planning, Evaluation & Testing
2. Security
3. Transportation
4. Facilities
5. Food & Nutrition
6. Remote Instruction Plan

Board members' questions were answered by Ms. Wilson.

Legal Committee Report - Ms. Santana

Ms. Santana reported that the following items were discussed at the Legal Committee meeting:

1. Recent Decisions
2. New Matters
3. Status of Pending Matters
4. Request for Board Action

Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee Report – Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson reported that the following items were discussed at the at the Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee meeting:

1. Parent Engagement Tour
2. Sex Trafficking Policy
3. Parent University
4. Title I Parent Conference
5. Student Achievement/Scholarships/Opportunities

Personnel Committee Report – Ms. Johnson

Ms. Johnson reported that the following items were discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting:

1. Staffing
2. Employee Services Update
3. Negotiations Update
4. Recommendations for Board Action
 - o Appointments
 - o Co-Curricular Assignments
 - o Transfers/ Resignations/Retirements
5. Recruitment

Program and Instruction Committee Report - Ms. Murray-Thomas

Ms. Murray-Thomas reported that the following items were discussed at the Program and Instruction Committee meeting:

1. North Ward School Leadership Team Presentation
2. Social and Emotional Learning
3. Partnering Schools
4. Remote Instruction Addendum to Safe Return Plan
5. Resolutions

Finance Committee Report – Mr. Council

Mr. Council reported that the following items were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting:

1. Lunch applications
2. Enrollment
3. Landscaping, ground maintenance, and snow removal
4. Employee Medical Benefits
5. New school
6. Budget

7. COVID – 19 Testing
8. Addendum to Return to School Plan

Board members' questions were answered by Ms. Wilson.

Governance Committee Report - Ms. Haynes

Ms. Haynes reported that the following were discussed at the Governance Committee meeting:

1. Food Services
2. COVID-19 Updates
3. CARES Act, ESSER II, and ARP Funding Plan
4. Newark Enrolls MOU
5. Policy 1100, Communicating with the Public
6. Policy 1330.2, Use of School Facilities – Naming of School Facility
7. Pending Legal Matters

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve the committee meeting reports. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved:	Ms. Garcia	
Seconded:	Ms. Santana	
Yeas	Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.	9
Nays:	None	0

Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021, Board Business Meeting and September 30, 2021, Regular Board Meeting.

Moved:	Ms. Garcia	
Seconded:	Ms. Haynes	
Yeas:	Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.	8
Nays:	None	0

Abstentions:	Ms. Johnson abstained from the vote on the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2021.	1
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Motion carried by a voice vote.

VII. Student Representative's Report

Student Representative Kimberly Gonzalez reported on the following items:

1. Congratulations to Bard, Science Park and Technology High Schools for winning the Great Schools College Success Award
2. Congratulations to the three new schools: Newark School of Data Science & Information Technology, Newark School of Fashion & Design, and Michelle Obama Elementary School
3. All School's Fair – November 13, 2021
4. Superintendent's Council of Students Meeting – October 27, 2021
5. Hispanic Heritage Month celebration

Board members' questions were answered by Ms. Gonzalez.

VIII. Board President's Report

President Haynes reported on the following items:

1. Malcolm X Shabazz Marching Band welcomed President Obama
2. Security Officer Walla Milliner
3. Parent Engagement Tour
4. Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting (SEPAC)
5. Parent University
6. District Hiring
7. Newark Enrolls

IX. Superintendent's Report

Mr. León reported to the Board on the following items:

- Food Service
- Juneteenth Recognition
- Superintendent's Councils
- COVID-19 Update
- Addendum to Safe Return Plan
- NBOE Task Force for the Reopening of Schools
- District Protocols
- Vaccination & Testing
- American Rescue Plan/ESSER/CARES Act Funds
- Vendor Presentation: A New Chapter Written in Newark
- Attendance
- Newark Enrolls Timeline
 - All Schools Fair – November 13, 2021
 - Applications and Auditions
 - Newark Enrolls 9th Grade High School Admissions Test
- Voter Registration Drive
- Title I Parent Conference – December 4, 2021
- Lights On Program – West Side High School
- Black Men Rising Coalition

Board members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

X. Public Participation

Ms. Liss 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:

Karla Arroyo, Natalie Sanchez, Masiel Valentin, Kathleen Witcher, Karla Guevara, Nicole Sanderson, Christopher Canik, Adriana Araya, Shaquanna Danzy, Yolanda Johnson, Yvette Jordan, James Arroyo, Jasmina B. West-Romero, Julia Lopez, Shanell Dunns, Deborah Smith-Gregory, Denise Cole, Dana M. Murray, Viva White, Khaatim Sherrer El, and Jahmillah Daniel.

XI. Finance & Operations

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Finance and Operations Items 11.1 to 11.44.

Moved: Mr. Council

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

Yeas Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **9**

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XII. Personnel

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve Personnel Items 12.1-12.9.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Anderson

Roll call vote:

Yeas Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **9**

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XIII. General Counsel – Legal Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve General Counsel item 13.1.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Norton

Roll call vote:

Yeas Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **9**

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XIV. Program & Instruction

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Program & Instruction Items 14.1-14.23.

Moved: Ms. Murray-Thomas

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

Yeas Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **9**

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XV. Adjournment

Ms. Garcia moved, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The following board members were present at adjournment: Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, 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

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Newark Board of Education, Thursday, October 28, 2021 be and are hereby adopted.

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent