



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, August 25, 2022

President Haynes convened the meeting at 6:03 p.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:

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

Board Member Arrived After Roll Call:

Ms. Crystal Williams – 6:14 p.m.

Board Member Absent:

Hasani Council

Administrative Staff Present:

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

IV. Recognitions

Superintendent León presented recognitions of the following:

- Summer Programs 2022 – 20,000 students
- 2022 Elementary Girls Basketball City Champions – Quitman Street School
- 2022 Elementary Boys Basketball City Champions – George Washington Carver
- National Catholic Forensic League Grant National Tournament
 - Kahyel Eaton, Central High School
- 2022 Cheerleading Champions Upper Team – Luis Munoz Marin
- 2022 Cheerleading Champions Upper Jumps – Harriet Tubman
- 2022 Cheerleading Champions Lower Team – 13th Avenue School

- **2022 Cheerleading Champions Lower Jumps – Luis Munoz Marin**
- **2022 Elementary Soccer Champion 3rd and 4th Grade – Lafayette School**
- **2022 Elementary Soccer Champion 5th and 6th Grades – Lafayette School**
- **2022 Elementary Soccer Gold Champions 7th and 8th Grades – Dr. E. A. Flagg & Elliott St.**
- **2022 Elementary Soccer Platinum Division Co-Champions 7th and 8th Grades – Hawkins Street**
- **NJDOE Student Art Installation Project: Hope, Healing and Resilience Through COVID-19 Pandemic – Avon Avenue School Pre K Program**
- **Jobs for America Graduates (JAG NJ). Dr. Sandra Strothers, Executive Director**

V. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 21, 2022.

Moved: Ms. Haynes

Seconded: Ms. Norton

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

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Nays: None

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Motion carried by a voice vote.

VI. Board President's Report

Board President Haynes reported to the Board on the following:

- Summer Bridge Program
- Board Retreat
- 13 Mile City Wide Peace Walk
- Latin Festival
- Let's Go to Work Video
- Upcoming Board Meeting
- CUBE Conference
- First Day of School

VII. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following:

- COVID -19 Update
- The Next Decade 2020-30
- Newark Enrolls
- Registration Forms in SchoolMint

Board Members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

VIII. 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:

Viva White, Deborah Smith Gregory, Kathleen Witcher

IX. Finance & Operations

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to approve Finance Items 9.1 -9.68.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Mr. Gonzalez
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton,
Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Haynes. **8**
Nays: None **0**

Motion Carried

X. Personnel

There was a motion made by Ms. Norton, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to approve Personnel Items 10.1-10.11.

Moved: Ms. Norton
Seconded: Mr. Gonzalez
Roll call vote:
Yeas Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas,
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Haynes. **8 (Except item 10.4 #1,2,3)**
Nays: None **0**
Abstentions: Ms. Williams as to Item 10.4, #1,2,3

Motion carried.

XI. Legal

There was a motion made by Ms. Norton, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Legal Items 11.1 – 11.7.

Moved: Ms. Norton
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Roll call vote:
Yeas Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas,
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Haynes. **8**
Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XII. Program & Instruction

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Program & Instruction Items 12.1-12.25.

Moved: Ms. Murray-Thomas

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

The Let's Go to Work video was presented.

XIII. Executive Session

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Mr. Gonzalez, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and matters within the attorney-client privilege. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Mr. Gonzalez

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

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE ATTACHED.

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

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Norton

Yeas Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and
Ms. Haynes. **6**

Nays: None **0**

Abstention: None **0**

Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:18 p.m. The following Board members were present: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Haynes.

XIV. Adjournment

Ms. Santana moved, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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

Newark Board of Education

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Minutes of Executive Session Thursday, August 25, 2022

The Board convened in executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton and Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Council, Mr. Gonzalez

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

Ms. Nicole Johnson, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Javier Nazario, Chief of Staff

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary

Dr. Yolanda Mendez, Assistant Superintendent

Matters Within the Attorney-Client Privilege

Mr. León and Ms. Liss discussed the grounds and procedures for tenure charges.

Personnel Matters

Ms. Liss presented tenure charges of inefficiency against employees S.M. and J. F. and tenure charges of unbecoming conduct and other just cause against employee L. H.

There was a motion by Ms. Norton, seconded by Ms. Santana, as follows:

1. Determining that the school district has followed the evaluation process as to employee S. M. during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, and therefore that the tenure charge of inefficiency against S. M. shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and S. M. shall be and hereby is suspended, effective August 30, 2022, without pay for 120 days and with pay thereafter during the pendency of the tenure charge.
2. Determining that the school district has followed the evaluation process as to employee J. F. during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, and therefore that the tenure charge of inefficiency against J. F. shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and J. F. shall be and hereby is suspended, effective August 30, 2022, without pay for 120 days and with pay thereafter during the pendency of the tenure charge.
3. Determining that probable cause exists to credit the evidence against employee L. H. in support of the tenure charges and that same are sufficient to warrant dismissal, and therefore that the tenure charges of unbecoming conduct and other just cause against L. H. shall be submitted to

the Commissioner of Education and L. H. shall be and hereby is suspended, effective August 30, 2022, without pay for 120 days and with pay thereafter during the pendency of the tenure charges.

Roll call vote:

Moved:	Ms. Norton	
Seconded:	Ms. Santana	
Yeas:	Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Haynes.	7
Nays:	None	0
Abstentions:	None	0

Motion Carried