



# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Committee Report

### Governance Committee

Location	Date	Time
Webex	March 20, 2025	5:01 PM
Board Members		
H. Council, President	V. Santana, Co-Vice President	
A. James-Frison, Co-Vice-President		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
B. Liss, General Counsel	R. León, Superintendent	
Other District Staff		
P. Luke, Executive Legal Assistant	H. Nazario, Chief of Staff	
N. Deering, Director of Board Relations	K. Montalbano, Executive Assistant	
V. Wilson, School Business Administrator	M. Brewster, Director of Staff Development	
Guests		
N/A		
Meeting Summary		
Call to Order: 5:01 PM		
The Committee received reports on the following topics:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Budget Hearing</li><li>- School Election and Board Reorganization</li><li>- School Calendar for 2025-2026</li><li>- Council of the Great City Schools Governance Model</li><li>- Charter Schools: Reports, Requests, Leases</li><li>- Legal Update</li></ul>		
Adjournment: 6:46 PM		

Item: Budget Hearing	
Lead(s): R. León, V. Wilson	<u>Priority/Strategy 1.1</u> : Organize and align departments and resources to support district priorities, strategies, and initiatives. <u>Priority/Strategy 1.2</u> : Adopt a sustainable fiscal strategy and operating budget that is aligned with the strategic plan and drives district priorities

The annual budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025. The proposed budget has been prepared and submitted as required. Budget challenges this year result from the fact that the district's student enrollment has grown by 1600 students but state aid has decreased from the \$112 million received this year to \$75 million for next year. The local share of the budget, the amount supported with local taxes, will be increased two percent, which is the maximum permissible increase. Because of the decrease in state aid, the administration is working hard to reduce costs and achieve savings without making any changes in the academic program or staffing at this time for next year.

Item: School Election and Board Reorganization	
Lead(s): H. Council, B. Liss	Priority/Strategy 3.5: Develop district-wide practices, activities, and norms that promote social and civic responsibility and a district commitment to social justice.

The annual school election will be held April 15, 2025. Eleven candidates are running for the three available seats on the Board. The deadline for voter registration for citizens of the City of Newark who will be at least 16 years of age by the date of the school election is March 25. All eligible voters are encouraged to vote.

The Board Reorganization meeting will be held on May 1, 2025. At that time, the Board will take all action required by law for its annual reorganization, including: administration of the oath of office to new and reelected board members, election of officers, approval of the annual board meeting calendar, designation of official newspapers, approval of curriculum and the five-year curriculum calendar, designation of depositories, adoption of a cash management plan, authorization to sign checks, authorization of district travel, authorization of purchases from state contract vendors and competitive contracting, adoption of board policies in compliance with state and federal law, appointment of outside counsel, and appointments to various positions. Additionally, Board members will be required to acknowledge the Code of Ethics for School Board Members.

Item: Council of the Great City Schools Governance Model	
Lead(s): H. Council	3.1 Communicate a shared vision and plan for developing, supporting, and sustaining positive culture and climate in all classrooms, schools, and departments across the district.

The Newark Board of Education is a member of the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition representing the 78 largest public school districts in the nation, dedicated to the improvement of education for children in the inner cities. The Council has created a framework for Student Outcomes Focused Governance, based on the premise that patterns of behavior exhibited in the boardroom can reasonably be expected to be found paralleled in the classroom. The framework is a set of tools from existing research and the collective experience of dozens of CGCS board members and superintendents, built around six research-informed competencies that describe school board behaviors and the degree to which they create the conditions for improvements in student outcomes: Vision & Goals, Values & Guardrails, Monitoring & Accountability, Communication & Collaboration, Unity & Trust, and Continuous Improvement. In coming months the Board will be discussing this framework with support from the Council, and considering its adoption and use in our district. This would include more efficient board meetings, minutes, and reports.

Item: <b>Charter Schools: Reports, Requests, Leases</b>	
Lead(s): R. León B. Liss	Priority/Strategy 1.5: Develop a capital strategy aligned with the Long-Range Facilities Plan and strategic plan to modernize all facilities and plan for enrollment projections, academic programs, and community needs.

The district has received notice from North Star Academy Charter School of termination of the lease for the premises at 15 Boylan Street in Newark, effective August 31, 2025. The school building at that location, the former Boylan Street School, has been leased to the charter school since 2014, but has been vacant in recent years and its condition has deteriorated. It is important to note that this property has

been successfully returned at no cost to the district. District representatives will be assessing the building condition.

Item: <b>Legal Update</b>	
Lead(s): B. Liss	<u>Priority/Strategy 1.1</u> : Organize and align departments and resources to support district priorities, strategies, and initiatives.

General Counsel provided updates on several pending legal matters. The details of that discussion are confidential, subject to the attorney-client privilege. Three items are proposed settlements of pending litigation, which the committee agreed to recommend for approval by the full Board of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.