



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Board Operations Committee Meeting
Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
 5:30 pm

Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	October 16, 2024	5:30pm
Board Members		
Hasani Council		Crystal Williams
Josephine Garcia		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Dr. Jose Fuentes		Valerie Wilson
Other District Staff		
Hasan Bullock		Bernard Mercado
Christopher Caponegro		Benjamin Olagadeyo
Quanika Dukes-Spruill		DaVonne Salley
Carlos Edmundo		Wali Thomas
Levi Holmes		
Meeting Summary		
<p><u>The meeting was called to order by myself at 5:33 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Office of Pupil Transportation</u> The Office of Pupil Transportation provided an update on the growing number of students eligible for busing, available public transportation resources for students, and increasing transportation costs. The staff is actively working to reduce expenses by optimizing routing efficiency. The committee was informed about the department’s various initiatives, including student participation in school bus evacuation drills, transportation staff completing the state-required District Report of Transported Resident Students, and ongoing monitoring of public bus routes to ensure timely pick-up and drop-off for students.</p> <p>Board Member Crystal Williams asked about offering transportation assistance to students with special needs who are interest in participating in sports. Ms. Dukes-Spruill responded that the District is responsible for providing transportation from homes to schools, and they will consider requests for additional support on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The Strategic Plan Priority that was identified is Priority 1: Unified & Aligned Systems, strategy 1.1.</p>		

Office of Safety and Security

The Office of Safety and Security presented an overview of the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reports for September, summarizing incidents that occurred during that time. The committee was also informed that Emergency Drill Charts are displayed in every active classroom across the district to provide guidance and clear instructions that can assist students and staff in responding quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the Office of Safety and Security is committed to providing ongoing training to ensure the highest level of safety for students and staff. Throughout October, the security team will participate in initiatives aimed at promoting bullying prevention during the school day in recognition of Bullying Prevention Month.

The Strategic Plan Priority that was identified is Priority 1: Unified and Aligned Systems, strategies 1.3 and 1.5.

Office of Facilities Management

The Office of Facilities Management provided an update on the progress of installing contactless water fountains and air conditioners throughout the district. Of the 842 water fountains, 19 remain to be installed. Due to specific environmental requirements for the replacements, a timeline for completing the installation of the outstanding water fountains is not available at this time. To date, a total of 1,054 air conditioners have been installed across the district.

Carlos Edmundo, Interim Executive Director of Facilities, presented a status report on the work orders received in September 2024. This report included a breakdown of work orders by trade and categorized them into completed, ongoing, and new requests.

The following resolution was presented and approved to move to the full board for approval;

- Submission of M1 & Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Submission of Temporary Space Usage
- Long Range Facilities Plan Minor Amendment
- Award of Tree Trimming and Related Services Contract
- East Ward Elementary Building Envelop and Window Replacement – Change Orders 8 & 9
- Award of Vinyl Composition Tiles (VCT) Floor Tiles and Related Supplies Contract
- Hawthorne Avenue and Lafayette Street Bathroom Renovations – Change Orders 1, 2, 3
- Tenant Agent Services for the Newark School of Architecture and Interior Design Contract
- Hawkins Street School Roof Replacement and Masonry Repair - Change Orders 8 & 9
- St. Casimir Lease Renewal – Ironbound Academy

Chair Josephine Garcia asked about the heating transition in our buildings in light of the chilly weather. Mr. Edmundo advised that there are no significant issues to report, and any minor concerns are being handled by the HVAC unit of Facilities Management.

The Strategic Plan Priority that was identified is Priority 1: Unified & Aligned Systems, strategy 1.5.

Miscellaneous

SBA Wilson provided an update on ARP Spending. The District has completed its spending and allocation of expenses within the required September 30th final report deadline.

Meeting was adjourned by myself at 7:07 PM

Meeting Adjourned

The Committee agreed to move Resolution(s) Forward to The Full Board	All voting items approved to be presented to the full board
Miscellaneous	
Adjournment Time	7:07 PM
Minutes Submitted By	Da Vonne Salley