



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Board Operations Committee Meeting Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson Wednesday, September 21, 2022 5:30 pm

Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	September 21, 2022	5:30pm
Board Members		
Josephine Garcia	Hasani Council	
Flohisha Johnson		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Valerie Wilson	Dr. Shakirah Harrington	
Other District Staff		
Nicole T. Johnson	Ansari Abdullah	
Krystle Whitlock-Ude	Dottie Croner	
Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Mary Harvey	
Levi Holmes	Rashon Dwight	
Anthony Jackson	Carolyn Granato	
Rodney Williams	Havier Nazario	
Carlos Edmundo	Edwin Mendez	
Rodney Williams	Victoria Rivera	
Vincent Hutcheson		
Benjamin Olagadeyo		
Guests		
Paul Napoli		
Meeting Summary		
<u>Meeting called to order by Chair Garcia at 5:33 pm</u>		
<u>Transportation</u>		
The new school year for students transported by school vehicles is a vast improvement from the start of the 2021-2022 School Year where the shortage of school bus drivers was at an all- time high. 3,866 students currently receive busing services to and from school, requests for 747 of these students were received after the start of school. Through new strategies that were put in place during the summer months, all students who are currently eligible for transportation have busing assignments. During this		

month's committee meeting, Pupil Transportation also provided insight on how students are routed and the path to secure buses. As well as the State required School Bus Evacuation Drill initiative slated to take place by mid-October. Pupil Transportation staff will continue to strive to route students within 72 hours of receiving the approved transportation application.

Security

The Office of Safety is committed to providing a safe and secure environment. Over the summer we reflected and assessed the Student Safety Data System (SSDS)/Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) data from SY 2021-2022 and applied response strategies to minimize these threats from happening for SY 2022-2023. In our response, we held a job fair in which 150 candidates were offered a job with Newark Board of Education Safety & Security team. We continue to resource all security staff with superior training for security threats we face in public education. The Office of Safety & Security also started the new Security Training Academy for all new hires which takes place on Saturdays from 8am - 3pm. All applied security upgrades will benefit Newark Board of Education students, staff, and community.

Facilities

The Operations Committee was provided with presentations on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) spending analysis, NJQSAC and a Convocation Update. These presentations were led by School Business Administrator Valerie Wilson.

The committee is provided a monthly update on the spending analysis of ESSER funds. The analysis includes information by department and indicates the requisitions, purchase orders, expenses and percentages of spending that has occurred. Ms. Wilson reported that over 73% of ESSER 2 funds had been spent and that almost 46% had been expensed at this time. She also informed the committee that both the Information Services and Food and Nutrition departments had begun spending American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. The District is using the strategy of limiting staff access to new funding sources until the older allocation is completely spent.

The district will be undergoing a New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Assessment (NJQSAC) this fall. All five areas (Instruction and Program, Fiscal, Operations, Personnel, and Governance) will be reviewed and various members of Executive Staff have been given lead responsibility for certain areas. Ms. Wilson will be leading the areas of Fiscal and Operations. A full review of the Operations District Performance Review (DPR) indicators were presented to the committee. Ms. Wilson reviewed each indicator, discussed examples of evidence and stressed with the Board Members the fact that the structured practices implemented by the board are consistent with ensuring the district will continue to score well in the self-assessment section. The review included information on the official submission of documents and evidence, timelines for review and what activities will be occurring.

Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) Update - The committee was updated on the work in progress of the ESIP projects. Johnson Controls, the ESIP contractor, provided updates on some of the Energy Conservation Measures that are being worked on. The roofing work has been completed. We coated and sealed 33 roofs. Lighting upgrades have been completed in 46 locations with 6 more locations left to do. Steam trap replacement and building envelope sealing are substantially complete while the new boilers installation at Chancellor Ave, University High School, Global Studies and Lafayette are about 85% complete and soon ready to be fired up. Additional detailed information is included in the ESIP Project Update Report.

Meeting Adjourned	
The Committee agreed to move Resolution(s) Forward to The Full Board	
Miscellaneous	Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) updates
Adjournment Time	7:54 pm by Josephine Garcia
Minutes Submitted By	Victoria Rivera

Item: Transportation	
Lead(s): Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Priority/Strategy 1:1.1

Comments: ***Student Transportation Updates and Information***

New School Year Transportation efforts report: As of 09/06/2022, 3,866 eligible students (IEP, DCPD/Displaced, ELL, and OOD); Total Routes 461/133 OOD routes; 43 Contracted Vendors; 37 Field Inspections; 0 Liquidated Damages; 5 Total Shuttle Buses for English Language Learners (ELL) – 3 at Louise A. Spencer School, 1 at Quitman Street School, and 1 at Sussex Avenue School totaling 106 students. 7,168 students in-district eligible for bus tickets; 62 students transported to and from courtesy hubs – 37 at Ridge Street Annex and 25 at Peshine Elementary School. 137 high school athletics – 69 Trips facilitated and 58 trips canceled (1 cancelled on site, 9 not covered); 3 Field trips.

Transportation Timeline: Seven step process to secure busing for NBOE students that qualify. 747 New applications as of 09/06/2022.

Transportation Cost: \$3,834,925.87 Million Dollars cost of routes; \$426,102.87 Thousand Dollars daily cost for Home to School; \$126.02 Daily cost per 3,381 Students. 2 Transportation Bids to date.

School Bus Evacuation Drills: Prior to or on 10/14/2022, will take place at the Newark Public Schools that receive Home to School Transportation services.

Item: Office of Information Technology	
Lead(s): Ansari Abdullah	Priority/Strategy:

Comments: ***Erate Update and Audits***

Erate update: Since its inception, the district received various funding for technologies we deploy. Audit received in January for specific services and payment rebate for a vendor the District selected (Crown Castle). Payment Quality Control for the month of June 2020-2021 School Year. The process lasted 8 months and NBOE received a letter confirming the District passed the audit as of 09/02/2022.

Item: Security	
Lead(s): Levi Holmes	Priority/Strategy: 1:1.3, 1.5

Comments: **Office of Safety Back to School Reflection & Assessments**

Assessments: Tracking submissions of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) /Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Reports. Collaborate with school principals to ensure timely submissions of emergency drills, safety plans, and execution of safety drills.

Reflection: 135 New Per Diem Security Guards (50 currently on-boarded); Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system utilized by dispatchers; 30 Schools with remote access/ building cameras to eliminate blind spots; 24/7 Dispatch and Security Patrol; Critical Response Group (CRG) Mapping. Crossing guard vacancies are being worked on in correlation to Senator Teresa Ruiz working towards changing the legislation language allowing for more candidates to apply instead of disqualifying them.

Back to School Safe Routes Intervention: The County Department of Transportation is proposing a temporary painted bulb-out and curb delineator posts on the north side of Chancellor Avenue Elementary School extended between the two crosswalks, as well as a temporary bulb-out along the eastern corner of Chancellor Avenue and Summit Avenue. Installation of speed bump funding is underway.

School Safety Data System (SSDS) & Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Compliance: In partnership with the Office of Student Life, established the youth offender protocol. The protocol involves conducting thorough investigations that may include the Newark Police Department and Code Enforcement. Thus far, 3 HIB reports have been submitted with several ongoing investigations.

Item: Facilities	
Lead(s): Valerie Wilson	Priority/Strategy:1:1.5

Comments: **Facilities Update**

Esser II Update: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II), American Rescue Plan (ARP), and Cares Act as occurring. The district monitors what is spent and what remains allowing for additional projects to come into fruition. At the start of the pandemic there was \$20 Million dollars of Cares Act. By the end of 2021 most Cares Act funding was spent on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC): NBOE will undergo a review this fall and winter statute code 6A Chapter 30. As a self-assessment and tool for the District to measure its compliance. There will be a NJQSAC Committee for review, scores, and process submitted to the NBOE. Must submit all 3 to NJDOE by SBA Valerie Wilson or clerical staff Wilma Davis by 11/15/2022. Reviews user manual (active link) Operations are at 100%.

ESIP UPDATE: 3 roofs completed with warranties; lighting upgraded to LED at various locations; pipe line valve insulation - 8 schools approved; 32 substantially completed; 7 remaining; steam traps - 32 school approved. Boiler replacements – 1 (McKinley) substantially completed and undergoing replacements at 6 schools that are slated to be completed early October. Building envelope – 54 completed, 54 undergoing. Wind turbine installation completed at Newark School stadium.

Convocation Updates: Energy saving \$1,000,000.00 Million Bond; District is Bronze Certified - 3 Silver Certified Schools; General building rehabilitation; ARP funding bathroom updates, electrical (AC) in several areas. Generator replacement slated due to Covid due to supply chain issues.

Water Update: Water fountains have been turned on district wide. Some fountains are leaking due to old ring filters and dry rotting. The issue will be addressed by the district's plumbers and the fountains will be retested afterwards. Contactless fountains are being installed at all schools. The estimated cost for a single fountain is \$1,500 and \$2,100 for a double fountain.