



# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Committee Report

Board Development and Governance Committee

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	10/25/21	5:00 PM
<b>Board Members</b>		
D. Haynes, Board President	F. Hill, Co-Vice President	
V. Santana, Co-Vice President	J. Garcia (for one agenda item)	
<b>District Liaison &amp; Superintendent Representative</b>		
B. Liss, General Counsel	R. León, Superintendent	
<b>Other District Staff</b>		
H. Nazario, Chief of Staff	P. Luke, Executive Legal Assistant	
N. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent	V. Wilson, School Business Administrator	
N. Deering, Director of Board Relations	A. Zartarian, Deputy General Counsel	
R. Jackson, Executive Director, Policy Planning, and Testing		
<b>Guests</b>		
N/A		
<b>Meeting Summary</b>		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Board President Haynes began the meeting by requesting a report on the district's food service. SBA Wilson and Superintendent León responded with a report and discussion of food service facilities, contracting, staffing, and provision of meals during COVID.</p> <p>The Committee received reports from the Superintendent and staff on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COVID-19 Update</li> <li>- CARES Act, ESSER II, and ARP Funding Plan</li> <li>- Newark Enrolls MOU</li> </ul> <p>The Committee then discussed a recommendation by Board Vice-President Santana regarding Policy 1100, Communicating with the Public, and a recommendation by Board Member Garcia regarding Policy 1330.2 Use of School Facilities – Naming of Schools and Facilities.</p> <p>Finally, the Committee received a report from General Counsel regarding legal matters.</p> <p>Call to Order: 5:04 PM Adjournment: 6:47 PM</p>		

Item: Food Service	
Lead(s): D. Haynes	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Board President Haynes requested a report on the District's Food Services program, including issues pertaining to staffing, service efficiency, and vendor performance.

SBA Wilson responded by first noting that a report on this topic was presented to the Operations Committee this month, and then providing a history of the District's food service program. She explained that the District has switched to pre-paid "grab and go" meals in many schools, which involves a different form of preparation, delivery and distribution. Ms. Wilson and the Superintendent responded to Board President Haynes's questions and said the District is actively working to resolve issues with staff shortages and vendor performance.

Item: COVID-19 Update	
Lead(s): R. León, N. Johnson	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent León reported to the Committee on the plan for weekly COVID testing of students and staff to begin in schools next week. A resolution authorizing and approving two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the vendors that will be providing the testing (St. James Health and JL Hudson Holdings) will be on the agenda for this month's Board meeting.

Deputy Superintendent Johnson reported to the Committee on a required addendum to the District's Reopening Plan, to incorporate the remote instruction plan that is required to be submitted annually. The plan, which must be posted on the District website, includes, among other things, length of the school day, a description of the manner that safe provision of education services will be provided, and the procedure for distribution of school meals.

Item: CARES Act, ESSER II, and ARP Funding Plan	
Lead(s): R. León	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent León reported that the district's application for ARP funding is being submitted to the federal government this Friday. The application is a request for funds for numerous projects and initiatives, all consistent with the District's 10-year strategic plan and based on input received from many stakeholders.

Item: Newark Enrolls MOU	
Lead(s): R. Jackson	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Ms. Jackson reported to the Committee on the Newark Enrolls MOU, which has been sent to all participating charter schools as well as others. A resolution authorizing and approving the MOU is on the agenda for this month's board meeting. The enrollment application window opens on November 13, closes on February 11, and match letters are tentatively scheduled to be released on April 18. Information about these dates and the Newark Enrolls process will be distributed widely.

Item: Policy 1100 Communicating with the Public	
Lead(s): V. Santana	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Vice-President Santana presented a recommendation and inquired about the feasibility of translating Board documents and information for the public into the major languages other than English spoken by many Newark families and for Board meetings to be live-streamed in those languages as well as English. Ms. Liss responded by noting that the Board policy on Communicating with the Public includes provisions addressing some but not all of these recommendations. Superintendent León said he and his staff will review the policy and make recommendations for any appropriate revisions.

Item: Policy 1330.2 Use of School Facilities – Naming of Schools and Facilities	
Lead(s): J. Garcia	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Board member Garcia entered the meeting to request follow-up on the decision last year to name the Thirteenth Avenue School cafeteria after a deceased former employee. Committee members and the Superintendent agreed that the naming event should be scheduled soon.

Item: Legal Matters	
Lead(s): B. Liss	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Ms. Liss provided an update to the Committee on pending legal matters. In particular, she reported that one of the district’s Five Major Legal Matters, the investigation conducted by the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) into the impact on students of school closures during the 2011-12 and 2013-14 school years, has been completed and the case has been closed by OCR. She also gave an update on the pending litigation against the Newark Housing Authority and other parties. Committee members expressed support for the district’s position in that matter and said they look forward to a favorable resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.