



# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

**Board Operations Committee Meeting**  
**Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**  
**5:30 pm**

**Committee Report**

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	June 12, 2024	5:30pm
<b>Board Members</b>		
Josephine Garcia	Crystal Williams	
Hasani Council		
<b>District Liaison &amp; Superintendent Representative</b>		
Krystle Whitlock		
<b>Other District Staff</b>		
Hasan Bullock	Wali	
Carlos Edmundo	Dr. Yolanda Mendez	
Levi Holmes	Roxana Morales	
Vincent Hutcheson	Da Vonne Salley	
Anthony Jackson		
<b>Guests</b>		
Barbara Barnes		
<b>Meeting Summary</b>		
<p><b><u>Meeting called to order by myself at 5:31p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Office of Food Services</u></b>            The committee was provided an update on processed lunch application's status and advised that the district currently stands at ninety percent completion rate. The committee was informed about the Summer Electronic Benefit (EBT) program which is intended to allow families to purchase food for their school-aged children during the summer months. Families eligibility is determined by several factors including household income. Another item presented by Food Services is the partnership with Robert Wood Johnson/ Barnabas Health's Chef Brigade program that will provide staff members training in food preparation and presentation.</p> <p><b><u>Office of Pupil Transportation</u></b>            The Office of Pupil Transportation presented data and an overview of the increases in transportation resources provided to district students including the continued growth in the area of home to school busing and public transportation resources. There were approximately 170 more students transported by bus during the month of April than in May. Pupil Transportation also informed the committee of the mandatory school bus contractor meeting held in May where 493 school bus drivers and aides received training on best practices required to transport students</p>		

with disabilities. Pupil Transportation also presented information on summer transportation efforts as well as upcoming student transportation work done thus far to prepare for the new school year.

### **Office of Safety and Security**

The Office of Safety and Security dedicates team to provide a safe, secure, and orderly environment for all students, staff and Community. A key part of the department's strategy to enhance student and staff safety is reviewing the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reports. In order to respond to the incidents reported through Student Safety Data System and supplementary outlet within Newark Board of Education; it is imperative that security staff receive comprehensive trainings. Over the summer, all security guards will receive training in the following areas: Behavioral Threat Assessment, CPR/AED/ Narcan Training, Stop the Bleed, Customer Service, Active Shooter/ Emergency Response, De-Escalation, Harassment and Bullying, New Camera System and 911 Dispatcher Training.

### **Office of Facilities Management**

The Office of Facilities Management provided a status update on contactless water fountains and air conditioners installation districtwide. Currently, there are 124 out 838 water fountains remaining to be installed. Some installations are delayed due to environmental issues that will be addressed during the summer break. However, all schools currently have water fountains that are operational. In regards to air conditioners, the committee was advised that installation at summer school sites is priority and currently have functional air conditioners in the instructional spaces. Installation at non-summer school sites is ongoing.

A status update regarding districtwide work orders for May 2024 was presented to the committee. The data included the number of completed, status of ongoing work orders, and those that were recently submitted.

The meeting proceeded with an overview of the custodial staff daily routine at all schools by Director Wali Thomas. Summer cleaning schedules and ongoing training opportunities for custodial staff, including supervisors and building managers was discussed. The training sessions will prepare the staff in ensuring district buildings are cleaned, presentable, and maintained daily. This will also alleviate various custodial concerns.

Newark Green Infrastructure presented on the Green Infrastructure Program that will be partnering with New Jersey Regional Day. The program will incorporate the green infrastructure measures including Bioretention cells, rain gardens, planter and permeable pavement for mitigating the storm water surface runoff, groundwater recharge and storm water runoff quality from the impervious surfaces to the maximum extent possible.

### **Miscellaneous**

ABA Krystle Whitlock provided an update on the District's spending analysis for American Rescue Plan (ARP). As of May 2024, approximately \$119 million of the District's ARP funds have been expensed, \$31 million has been encumbered, and \$8 million remaining. The District continues to spend the funds on allowable uses and is on track to expend all funds by the September 2024 deadline

Meeting was adjourned by myself at 7:27 PM

## Meeting Adjourned

<b>The Committee agreed to move Resolution(s) Forward to The Full Board</b>	All voting items approved to be presented to the full board
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<b>Adjournment Time</b>	7:51 PM
<b>Minutes Submitted By</b>	DaVonne Salley