



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, June 22, 2021

President Dawn Haynes convened the meeting at approximately 6:01 p.m. The meeting was held virtually with audio and video access provided to members of the Board and the public.

**I. Call to Order (Reading of Statement) Ms. Brenda Liss**

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., and in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code 6A: 26-10.11, notice of this meeting has been provided by advertising in the "Star-Ledger, Haiti Progress, Luso Americano and La Voz" newspapers and by distribution to administrative offices of the Newark Public Schools. Electronic notice was provided and by posting on the Newark Board of Education District website. A copy of the meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

**II. Flag Salute**

**III. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.

Ms. Anderson arrived at approximately 6:21 p.m. and left at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Ms. Norton left at approximately 8:21 p.m.

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary

Ms. Valerie Wilson, School Business Administrator

Ms. Nicole T. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Nancy Deering, Director of Board Relations

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas and seconded by Ms. Norton, to amend the agenda to add resolution 11.0 Board Resolution and additional item 11.4 to the agenda.

**Moved:** Ms. Murray-Thomas

**Seconded:** Ms. Norton

**Yeas:** Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **8**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Abstentions:** **0**

**Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**IV. Recognitions**

Ms. León recognized Newark Teen Hero:  
Jarrett Carter, Arts High School

Mr. León recognized the 2021 Math Olympic Winners:  
Sabrina Aguilar, Wilson Avenue School  
Liz Ramos, Lafayette Street School  
Olamide Adekoya, South 17<sup>th</sup> Street School  
Gabriel Espinoza, Oliver Street School  
Victoria Alegunlade, Newark Vocational High School  
Achunike Okafor, Science Park High School  
Chinenye Okafor, Science Park High School  
Jadhy Michalowski, Science Park High School  
Azeez Richardson, Science Park High School

Mr. León recognized the Elementary Science Olympics Winners:

**First Place**

Kiara Lanche-Fernandez, Wilson Avenue School  
Emily Freitas, Wilson Avenue School  
Bianca Araujo, Wilson Avenue School  
Ramon Parachico, Wilson Avenue School  
Deandra Tavares, Wilson Avenue School

**Second Place**

Yamarelis Garcia, First Avenue School  
Sergio Mantrana-Carrion, First Avenue School  
Emilio Hernandez, First Avenue School  
Kevin Penefiel, First Avenue School  
Dorien Diaz, First Avenue School

**Third Place**

Yeneisy Morocho, Abington Avenue School  
Deysi Rodriguez-Valdiviezo, Abington Avenue School  
Elian Quezada, Abington Avenue School  
Micaela Azcona, Abington Avenue School  
Yailin Maldonado, Abington Avenue School

Mr. León recognized the High School Science Olympics Winners:

**First Place**

Stephen Kamsiyochukwu Akuakolam, Weequahic High School

**Second Place**

Yash Patel, Central High School

**Third Place**

Kezia Oshuporu, Malcolm X Shabazz High School

Chelsea Mensah, Malcolm X Shabazz High School

Mr. León recognized the Elite 8 Newark Debate Teams:

Sumayah Orphelia, Science Park High School

Ashley Lourenco, Science Park High School

Julie Guimaraes, Wilson Avenue School

Samantha Lino, Wilson Avenue School

Nathaly Andrade, Park Elementary School

Sacha Perez, Park Elementary School

Beatriz Palmeiro, Ann Street School

Sara Rengel, Ann Street School

Shelsea Valle, Luis Munoz Marin School

Allessa Mina, Luis Munoz Marin School

Esther Patrick, Chancellor Avenue School

Mishka Grey, Chancellor Avenue School

Brianna Aguilar, Elliott Street School

Mark Perez, Elliott Street School

Mr. León recognized the City Debate Champions:

Science Park High School

Mr. León recognized the Harvard Summer Program:

Theresa Ogbuehi, University High School

Mr. León recognized the Harvard Undergraduate International Relations Scholars:

Ameerha Alli, Newark School of Global Studies

Uriah Price, Newark School of Global Studies

Valery Guaman, Newark School of Global Studies

Mr. León recognized the Misa Hylton Fashion Academy Future of Fashion Camp:  
Khaye Robertson, Newark School of Fashion  
Janiya Hamberry, Newark School of Fashion  
Naomi Figueroa Zana Wooten, Newark School of Fashion  
Daisy Fair, Newark School of Fashion  
Ayesha Jawneh, Newark School of Fashion  
Ashlee Wright, Newark School of Fashion  
Zuleyka Sales, Newark School of Fashion  
Maia Shepherd, Newark School of Fashion  
ZaCadrea Evans, Newark School of Fashion  
JazLin Rubio, Newark School of Fashion  
Amirah O'Neal-Majors, Newark School of Fashion  
Leslie, Santillan, Newark School of Fashion

Mr. León recognized the winners of the Newark Afro Academic, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO).

**Gold Medal – Contemporary Dance**

Stephen Hayley, Arts High School

**Silver Medal – Vocal Music Contemporary**

Taquan Simmons, Central High School

**Bronze Medal – Short Story**

Berline Cosmeus, American History High School

Mr. León recognized the winner of the State Sectional Triple Jump Championship Placed 25<sup>th</sup> in the State of New Jersey:

Holland Henderson, Weequahic High School

Mr. León recognized the Academic Awards Night Class of 2021. 350 student names were shown that have a GPA of 3.5 and higher.

Mr. León recognized Audible for providing students with special gifts.

Mr. León recognized the Class of 2021 for earning \$33,266,731 in college scholarships.

Mr. León recognized the Class of 2021 for saving their parents a total of \$3,589,087 by taking College Courses in high school.

Mr. León recognized the 98 students of the Class of 2021 who earned an Associate's Degree while attending high school.

Mr. León recognized the Unsung Heroes representing all the high schools in the city of Newark and Essex County.

Jehiny Rodriguez, Arts High School

Alec Barnieu, American History High School

Zaria Hemphill, Bard Early College High School

Aryaman Ravash, Barringer High School

Lareiya Haris, Central High School

Jahmir O'Neal, Eagle Academy for Young Men of Newark

Daniel Perez Cuevas, East Side High School

Precious Adeyemi, Malcolm X Shabazz High School

Jalen Gaddy, Newark Evening Educational Center

Auriel Pierre, Science Park High School

Georgina Thompson-Quartey, Technology High School

Jayla Blackman, University High School

Treanean Watts, Weequahic High School

Heavyn Woods, West Side High School

Mr. León recognized the Superintendent's Book Scholarship of \$4,000 per student per high school.

Mr. León recognized the Mayor's Honors Scholars Program for the Class of 2021. The program is sponsored by NJIT and the Newark Public Schools. Three students received full scholarship. The three students will be identified at the graduation ceremony.

Mr. León recognized BioShine Scholarship for awarding 10 - \$10,000 Scholarships. Two students from the Class of 2021 from Central, Shabazz, Science Park, Technology and Weequahic high school will receive the scholarship.

Mr. León recognized the Weequahic High School Alumni Association for giving \$46,750 to thirty-three of the graduating seniors. 22 (\$2,000 scholarships) and 11 (\$250 book scholarships)

Mr. León recognized the Frederic Feind Scholarship sponsored by the Reeves & Feind family. \$10,000 will be offered to one student that attends Barringer high school.

Mr. León recognized the Octavio "Tave" Padilla Legacy Scholarship sponsored by the Padilla family. A student from Barringer high school will receive the \$5,000 scholarship.

Mr. León recognized the NJSIAA for recognizing Newark Board of Education Graduating Scholastic-Athletes. Each senior will receive a \$500 check towards their education.

Destiny Rios, American History High School

Patricio Bautista, Barringer High School

Christian Gomes, East Side High School

Prince Appiah, Eagle Academy for Young Men of Newark

Diamonique Williams, Malcolm X Shabazz High School

Briana Esteves, Science Park High School

Jordan Skillern, Technology High School

Tara Daye Johnson, University High School

Joseph Sawacha, West Side High School

**V. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021, Reorganization Meeting, May 22, 2021, Board Retreat, 5-25-2021 Board Business Meeting, 5-27-2021 Regular Board Meeting, 5-28-2021 Public Hearing and the 5-28-2021 Special Board Meeting.

**Moved:** Mr. Council

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Yeas:** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson,  
Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **9**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Abstentions:** **0**

**Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.**

**VI. Committee Reports**

**Operations Committee Report - Ms. Garcia**

The following items were discussed at the Operations Committee meeting:

1. Safe return plan
2. Vaccinations
3. Security
4. Facilities
5. Facilities newsletter
6. Transportation

Board members' questions were answered by Ms. Garcia.

**Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee Report – Ms. Anderson**

The following items were discussed at the Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee meeting:

1. Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Template draft was updated
2. Vaccinations
3. Student Support Services
4. Summer PLUS
5. McKinney-Vento and Educational Stability

**Program and Instruction Committee Report – Ms. Murray-Thomas**

The following items were discussed at the Program and Instruction Committee meeting:

1. Partnership agreement between the Newark School of Data Science, Information Technology and Microsoft Corporation.
2. FASFA graduation requirements
3. Field experiences at the Newark School of Fashion and Design
4. Development of a guidebook for Program and Instruction
5. Resolutions

**Finance Committee Report – Mr. Council**

The following items were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting:

1. Agenda items
2. Resolutions
3. Fund balance

**Legal Committee Report - Ms. Norton**

The following items were discussed at the Legal Committee meeting:

1. Pending legal matters
2. Recent decisions
3. New matters/issues
4. Request for Board action
5. Settlement proposal
6. District contract template for MOU's

**Personnel Committee Report – Mr. Council**

The following items were discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting:

1. Staffing updates
2. Negotiations update and union representation overview
3. Employee Services update
4. Voting items
5. Resolutions
6. Other business
7. Recruitment efforts

**Governance Committee Report - Ms. Haynes**

The following items were discussed at the Governance Committee meeting:

1. Safe Return Plan report
2. Adoption of Board Policy 9120
3. Proposed amendment of Board Policy 9121
4. Proposed amendment of Policy 6146
5. Equity planning
6. Remote meeting guidance
7. Chart school reports and leases
8. Pending legal matters
9. Superintendent's evaluation
10. August retreat agenda
11. District Convocation 2021

Board members' had questions that were answered by Ms. Liss.

There was a motion made by Ms. Norton and seconded by Ms. Haynes to approve the committee meeting reports. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Moved:** Ms. Norton

**Seconded:** Mr. Haynes

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 9

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.**

**VII. Student Representative's Report**

Student Representative Kimberly Gonzalez reported on the following items:

1. 2021 Moving up ceremony
2. All Star Academic Awards event
3. NJPAC's Recorder Arts for Musical Pathways (R.A.M.P.)
4. Malcolm X Shabazz Girls Flag Football team
5. Summer School Programs
6. The Summer Reading List

**VIII. Board President's Report**

President Haynes asked for a moment of silence to honor employees and students who have lost. She then reported on the following items:

1. Congratulations to the graduates
2. Winners of the Math and Science Olympics
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Girls Flag Football team
4. Weequahic's Holland Henderson
5. Providing families with meals
6. Virtual Wellness Check-in session
7. Policy 9120 Filling Board Vacancies



8. Summer programs
9. Summer meals program
10. Summer Enrichment Program

**IX. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. León reported on the following items:

- COVID-19 Update
- 22 Food Service Program Sites
- Summer meal distribution
- Chromebooks, Wi-Fi and hot spots
- Class of 2021
  - Ms. Johnson presented on the following topics:
    - ARP Funds
    - Cares Act
    - Governor's Announcement - Remote learning not an option
    - Develop a Safe Return Plan
    - Use of public funds
    - Survey
    - Reopening of the School Task Force
    - Submission of the Safe Return Plan
    - ARP application due in November
    - District protocols
    - 4-Step Ingress Procedures
    - Egress Procedures
  - Ms. Wilson presented on the following topics:
    - CARES Act
    - ESSER II
    - American Rescue Plan
    - Build vaccine confidence amongst adolescents and their parents
    - Launch pop-up, school-based vaccine clinics in the month of June
  - Ms. Nelms presented on the following topics:
    - Safe Return Plan Stakeholder Series
    - Constituent groups who completed surveys
    - 1,400 surveys returned
    - The process of reviewing the surveys
    - The outcome of the surveys
  - Ms. Harvey presented on the following topics:
    - Policy 6146: Graduation Requirements (Amended to include FAFSA/NJFAA)
    - Graduation Requirements
    - FAFSA/NJFAA
    - FAFSA/NJFAA Exemption Form
  - Ms. Jackson presented on the following topic:
    - Absenteeism for the month of May

**Superintendent's Report Continued:**

- Mr. Matos presented on the following topics:
  - FY 20-21 Quarterly forecast
  - FY 20-21 Latest Thinking Forecast
  - Forecasted Year-to-Date Savings
  - Potential Risks: FY 20-21
  - 2.5 million capitol reserve account
  - 4% fund balance

Board members had questions that were answered by Mr. León.

**X. Public Participation**

Ms. Liss reviewed the guidelines for public participation. The comments of the following speakers can be found on the Newark Board of Education's website under Board Meeting video archives.

Devin Kyser, Viva White, Denise Cole, Nicole Sanderson, Christopher Canik, Yolanda Johnson, David Daughety, Cassandra Dock, Kathleen Witcher, Jasmina West-Romero, Roberto Cabanas, Deborah Smith-Gregory, Tafshier Cosby, Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, Colin Hennessy Elliott, Thomas Luna and Yvette Jordan.

**XI. Board Resolutions**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia and seconded by Ms. Haynes, to adopt all the items under 11.0 that includes 11.4: A Resolution of the Board of Education of Newark, New Jersey, Acknowledging Juneteenth and Affirming Black Lives in Newark Schools which was added as a result of the motion to amend the agenda. Ms. Liss read the resolution of 11.4 before members voted. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia

**Seconded:** Mr. Haynes

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

**XII. Finance & Operations**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Finance and Operations Items 12.1 to 12.19.

**Moved:** Mr. Council

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council and seconded by Ms. Garcia to open the public hearing on item 12.20, Resolution Authorizing Certain Actions Necessary in Connection with the Sale and Issuance of Energy Savings Obligation Refunding School Bonds.

**Moved:** Mr. Council

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Public Hearing**

Ms. Wilson read Resolution 12.0. After providing an opportunity for comments and questions of Board members, Ms. Liss reviewed the guidelines for public participation, limited to the proposed Resolution Authorizing Certain Actions Necessary in Connection with the Sale and Issuance of Energy Savings Obligation Refunding School Bonds. The comments of the speaker can be found on the Newark Board of Education's website under Board Meeting Video Archives.

Roberto Cabanas

The speaker's question was answered by Ms. Wilson.

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana and seconded by Ms. Garcia to close the public hearing.

**Moved:** Ms. Santana

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Council, to adopt resolution 12.20.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes

**Seconded:** Mr. Council

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia and seconded by Ms. Santana to open the public hearing for item 12.21.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia

**Seconded:** Ms. Santana

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Public Hearing**

Ms. Wilson Read the resolution for 12.1. After providing an opportunity for comments and questions of Board Members, Ms. Liss reviewed the guidelines for public participation, limited to the proposed Resolution Authorizing Certain Actions Necessary in Connection with the Sale and Issuance of Energy Savings Obligation Refunding School Bonds.

The comments of the following speakers can be found on the Newark Board of Education's website under Board Meeting Video Archives.

Yolanda Johnson, Roberto Cabanas and David Daughety

A speaker's question was answered by Ms. Wilson.

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes and seconded by Ms. Garcia to close the public hearing.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes  
**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia  
**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8  
**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council and seconded by Ms. Garcia to adopt item 12.21.

**Moved:** Mr. Council  
**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8  
**Nays:** None 0  
**Motion carried.**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve Purchasing and Facilities Items 12.22 to 12.92.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia  
**Seconded:** Mr. Council  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 8  
**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

**XIII. General Counsel – Legal Votes**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve General Counsel item 13.1.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia  
**Seconded:** Ms. Santana  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 8  
**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

**XIV. Personnel**

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve Personnel Items 14.1-14.19.

**Moved:** Ms. Santana

**Seconded:** Mr. Council

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-  
Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

**XV. Program & Instruction**

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Program & Instruction Items 15.1-15.26.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-  
Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

**XVI. Executive Session**

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes and seconded by Ms. Garcia to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-  
Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:26 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE ATTACHED**

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana and seconded by Ms. Garcia to reconvene in open session. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Moved:** Ms. Santana

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Motion carried.**

The Board reconvened in open session at approximately 11:34 p.m.

**XVII. Adjournment**

Ms. Santana moved, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

The following board members were present at adjournment: Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.

Submitted by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Renee Martinez, Board Relations

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Liss, General Counsel

**Resolved, that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Newark Board of Education, Tuesday, June 22, 2021 be and are hereby adopted.**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Roger León, Superintendent





Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

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## Minutes of Executive Session Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Executive Session called to order at 10:28 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.

**Board of Education Staff Present:**

Mr. León  
Mr. Nazario  
Mr. Scutari

Board President Haynes led a discussion of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Executive Session adjourned at 11:30 p.m.