



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Board Operations Committee Meeting Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson Wednesday, September 20, 2023 5:30 pm

### Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	September 20, 2023	5:30pm
<b>Board Members</b>		
Josephine Garcia	Hasani Council	
Dawn Hayes		
<b>District Liaison &amp; Superintendent Representative</b>		
Valerie Wilson	Krystle Whitlock	
Havier Nazario		
<b>Other District Staff</b>		
Hasan Bullock		
Quanika Dukes-Spruill		
Carlos Edmundo		
Levi Holmes		
Vincent Hutchinson		
Anthony Jackson		
Haben Mengistu		
Benjamin Olagadeyo		
DaVonne Salley		
<b>Guests</b>		
<b>Meeting Summary</b>		
<b><u>Meeting called to order by Board Member Council at 5:35 pm</u></b>		
<b><u>Office of Pupil Transportation</u></b>		
The Office of Pupil Transportation implemented new strategies that were put in place during the summer months, such as hosting three transportation bids before the start of the school year, to ensure all students who are currently eligible for transportation have busing assignments. Pupil Transportation also provided insight on how students are routed and the process used to secure vendor provided		

busing. Pupil Transportation staff will continue to strive to route students within 72 hours of receiving approved transportation applications and provide students who are eligible with transportation resources. Information was also provided on the job duties of the Newark Board of Education Transportation Inspectors that work within the Pupil Transportation Department.

Chairperson Garcia and Board Member Council had questions regarding how the department is compliant in following regulations regarding school buses and aides as well as addressing complaints on bus tardiness. Ms. Dukes-Spruill responded and provided explanation on how the department meets compliance and how they address bus tardiness.

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

The Office of Safety & Security compiled and analyzed SY22-23 Student Safety Data Systems (SSDS) to identify security threat trends and apply response strategies to minimize these threats from happening in SY23-24. They will continue to collaborate with other departments and community partners in implementing these strategies. The department will provide ALL security staff with superior training to meet the needs of ever-changing threats to keep our students and staff safe.

Board Members Council and Haynes had questions regarding the insignia on the new security vehicles, customer service training for the security guards, and the visitor engagement process. Mr. Bullock shared that the insignia is waiting for approval. SBA Wilson, Chief of Staff Nazario, and Mr. Bullock provided a thorough explanation of various trainings the district's security team has completed and Standard Operating Procedures for visitor engagement.

### **Office of Facilities Management**

Facilities Interim Executive Director Carlos Edmundo provided an update on the status of the cleanup and restoration that took place at Wilson Avenue School resulting from the fire on August 28, 2023. Precautionary measures were implemented during this process to ensure the environment was safe to receive students and staff.

In addition, the Malcolm X Shabazz track and turf installation is complete. Untermann Field's turf is complete and the track installation is scheduled for completion on September 28th. Installation of new scoreboards and LED lighting is currently in process at both fields.

Mr. Edmundo provided an update on projects completed during the summer, including:

- Buildings painted in its entirety: Speedway Elementary, Park Elementary, Sussex Avenue School, First Avenue School, Central High School, and Belmont Runyon Elementary.
- New school furniture for 6 schools in its entirety: Avon Elementary, Belmont Runyon, Dr. E. Alma Flag, Quitman Street School, Mount Vernon & Lincoln

Mr. Edmundo provided an update on the installation of contactless and bottled water fountains: 820 fountains need to be replaced, of that 484 are fountains and 353 are bottle fillers. If a location has two fountains that are side by side, they will be replaced with two touchless fountains and a bottle filler.

Mr. Council had questions regarding the cause and possible prevention of the Wilson Avenue fire, and update on work orders. Mr. Edmundo advised that the arson investigator's findings have yet to be received. He also explained the work order process from submission to completion and gave an overview of work orders currently in the system.

**Miscellaneous**

SBA Wilson provided an update on American Rescue Plan (ARP) spending. She highlighted the grant’s expiration date, projects being supported with the funds and balances for each grant. As of July 2023, approximately 29% of ARP funds have been expensed. SBA Wilson discussed methods to ensure ARP funds are utilized by the September 2024 deadline.

SBA Wilson also advised the committee that the intent of the upcoming audit is to review, assess, and monitor how the New Jersey Department of Education has allocated Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) to the district.

Assistant School Business Administrator, Krystle Whitlock informed the committee that Weequahic High School will be considered for nomination to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places by the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. Both registers are official lists of historic properties worthy of preservation and acknowledges and assists in preserving our nation’s heritage. The nomination will be considered by the New Jersey State Review Board in November.

<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	
<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>	N/A
<b>Adjournment Time</b>	7:05 PM by Hasani Council
<b>Minutes Submitted By</b>	DaVonne Salley

