



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Board Operations Committee Meeting
Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
5:30 pm

Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	December 13, 2023	5:30pm
Board Members		
Josephine Garcia	Hasani Council	
Allison James-Frison		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Krystle Whitlock	Havier Nazario	
Other District Staff		
Hasan Bullock		
Quanika Dukes-Spruill		
Rashon Dwight		
Carlos Edmundo		
Levi Holmes		
Anthony Jackson		
Benjamin Olagadeyo		
Elayier Pickett		
DaVonne Salley		
Michelina Thornton		
Guests		

Meeting Summary

Meeting called to order by Board Member Council at 5:35 pm

Office of Pupil Transportation

The Office of Pupil Transportation provided data on the District’s safety policies and procedures while students are riding on school vehicles. The committee was informed on the District’s seatbelt policy, emergency school bus evacuation drills, and the new training program for district drivers and contracted bus drivers. The Office of Pupil Transportation is working to ensure that the goals and objectives of efficiency and compliance are carried out by all staff and contractors who provide transportation services to Newark students.

A question was posed by Board President Hasan Council regarding the dollar amount that is spent in bus tickets for charter school. Ms. Dukes-Spruill will provide the requested information to the operations committee.

Office of Safety and Security

The Office of Safety and Security is dedicated to provide a safe, secure, and orderly environment for all students and staff. A key part of our strategy to enhance student and staff safety is our daily review of SSDS (Student Safety Data System) reports. Data show a consistent reduction in reported SSDS incidents compared to October reported incidents, and November 22-23SY reported numbers.

The committee was informed of the newly finished Johnnie Harris Training Center for all security staff and the department's upgraded patrol units which are outfitted with Newark Board of Education's Office of Safety decal visible to the public. The vehicles include sophisticated Motorola radios, and tracking system to enhance patrol unit safety.

After the department's presentation, Board Member Josephine Garcia asked if spectators are allowed at scrimmage games. The Department of Athletics will provide information regarding attendees at scrimmage games.

Board Member Allison James-Frison inquired about emergency drill announcements. Mr. Hasan Bullock stated that under New Jersey state guidelines, all emergency drills are not announced prior to them occurring.

Office of Facilities Management

Facilities Interim Executive Director Carlos Edmundo provided status updates on the following; contactless water fountain installation, status of work orders, and Bard High School Early College Gymnasium completion.

Board President Council asked a question regarding a targeted date for the completion of the contactless water fountain installation. A timeline and targeted completion date for installation of the remaining contactless water fountains will be presented at January's Operations Committee Meeting.

Board President Council followed up with a question regarding water testing. Director Edmundo advised that water testing was completed in Summer 2022 and is required every 3 years. Assistant School Business Administrator (ASBA) Krystle Whitlock stated that all testing results are located at each individual school and posted on the District's website.

Director Edmundo proceeded with going over the open workers and explained that a work order "on hold" means that additional materials and/or support is needed to address the repair. Director Edmundo advised that work orders are duplicated at times due to the time it takes to address. In efforts to cut down on duplication, school custodial staff will follow up with their building managers to ensure work orders addressed timely.

Next, the committee was informed of Bard's gymnasium renovation. Director Edmundo stated that the bleachers are expected to arrive the of January 2024. In the meantime, seating will be arranged with folding chairs and/or portable bleachers for home games. Chief of Staff Havier Nazario informed the committee that all Saturday games and practices will be scheduled and held after Saturday school is dismissed.

The committee asked for an update in regards to installation of air conditioners districtwide. Director Edmundo stated that units have been purchased for buildings that have adequate electric capacity to support the installation. A timeline for electrical assessments, air conditioner installation, and HVAC upgrades districtwide will be presented at January's Operations Committee Meeting. ASBA Whitlock advised the committee that American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds are being utilized for this project.

Miscellaneous

ASBA Whitlock provided an update on the district's spending analysis for ESSER II and ARP. She highlighted that confirmation was received from the State acknowledging that the district expensed all its ESSER II funds. ASBA Whitlock also advised that the district is on track to utilize all ARP funds for various projects and initiatives by September 2024 deadline.

Director of Federal Programs and Grants, Michelina Thornton provided the committee with an update on the District's Safe Return Plan. The plan serves as a guideline for the continued safe in-person instruction

by maintaining health and safety protocols and ensuring the continuity of services for all schools. The District submitted its Safe Return Plan to the New Jersey Department of Education as required.

Meeting was adjourned by myself at 6:35 PM.

Meeting Adjourned	
The Committee agreed to move Resolution(s) Forward to The Full Board	All voting items approved to be presented to the full board
Miscellaneous	N/A
Adjournment Time	6:35 PM
Minutes Submitted By	DaVonne Salley