



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, November 26, 2024

President Council convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. The meeting was held at Dr. William H. Horton School, 291 North 7th Street, Newark, NJ 07107 with video access provided to members of the public.

1. Call to Order (Reading of Statement) Ms. Valerie Wilson

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate 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 by posting on the Newark Board of Education website. A copy of this meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council

Board Member Arrived Late:

Ms. Anderson 6:20 pm

Board Member Left Early:

Ms. Vinhas 7:30 pm

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent
Ms. Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary
Ms. Nancy Deering, Director, Office of Board Relations
Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel
Ms. Yolonda Severe, Deputy Superintendent

4. Greetings from Principal

Principal Perreira welcomed the Board Members, the Superintendent, and members of the community to Dr. William H. Horton School.

Principal Perreira spoke about:

- A video, put together by the students, provided an overview of the majors and clubs the school offers
- The school band performed

5. Recognitions

Superintendent León recognized the following students:

- Arts High School Latin Band Performed at the United States Department of Education
- Chancellor Avenue School Officially Opened “Chancellor’s Closet”
- Garden State E-Sports Tournament - State Qualifier
 - o Data Science & Information Technology
- Duke of Edinburgh International Award
 - o Technology High School - Victoria Abigail & Lazo Zumba
- College Fair Class of 2025
- Malcolm Bernard HBCU College Fair

2024 NJSIAA Football State Qualifiers

- Central High School – North 1 Group 4
- East Side High School – North 2 Group 5
- Malcolm X Shabazz High School – North 1 Group 2
- Weequahic High School - North 2 Group 3

2024 NJSIAA Boys Soccer State Qualifiers

- Barringer High School – North 2 Group 4
- Central High School – North 2 Group 3
- East Side High School – North 2 Group 4
- Malcolm X Shabazz High School – North 2 Group 2
- Science Park High School – North 2 Group 2
- West Side High School – North 2 Group 3

2024 NJSIAA Girls Soccer State Qualifiers

- East Side High School – North 2 Group 4
- Science Park High School – North 2 Group 2

2024 NJSIAA Girls Volleyball State Qualifiers

- American History High School
- Arts High School
- Bard Early College
- Barringer High School – North 2 Group 4
- Central High School – North 2 Group 3
- East Side High School – North 2 Group 4

6. Committee Reports

Personnel Committee – Ms. Vinhas

Ms. Vinhas reported that the following items were discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting:

- Staffing Updates
- Voting Items
- Separations
- Non-Voting Items
- Labor Negotiations
- Recruitment Efforts

Operations Committee – Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia reported that the following items were discussed at the Operations Committee meeting:

- Pupil Transportation Resolutions
- Lunch Application update
- Vacancies
- Student Safety Data System (SSDS)
- Facilities Updates
- Facilities Resolutions

Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee– Ms. Haynes

Ms. Haynes reported that the following items were discussed at the Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee meeting:

- Attendance
- Truancy Task Force
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying/ Title IX
- Parent Engagement Highlights
- Title I Parent Conference
- Student Life Highlights
- NBOE Fall Senior College Fair
- NJ LEEP (Law and Education Empowerment Project)
- Mentoring Services Updates

Instruction & Program Committee – Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson reported that the following items were discussed at the Instruction & Program Committee meeting:

- Department of Science Initiatives
- Resolutions

Finance Committee – Mr. Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the following items were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting:

- Purchasing Updates
- Budget Calendar 2025-2026
- Resolutions

Governance Committee – Mr. Council

Mr. Council reported that the following items were discussed at the Governance Committee meeting:

- ERESC Update (Essex Regional Educational Services Commission)
- School Facilities
- QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum)
- NTU Contract (Newark Teachers Union): SLC (School Leadership Council) Process and Updates
- Charter Schools: Reports, Requests, and Leases
- Legal Updates

Committee Reports

There was a motion made by Ms. James-Frison, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve the November Committee reports.

Moved: Ms. James-Frison
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison,
Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council **8**
Nays: **0**
Abstention: **0**

Motion carried.

7. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Anderson
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison,
Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council **8**
Nays: **0**
Abstentions: **0**

Motion carried.

8. Board President's Report

President Council reported on the following:

- Urban Boards of Education Conference
- 2024 Graduation Ceremony of Mediation Mentors
- NJ LEEP (Law and Education Empowerment Project)
- Newark Enrolls
- Chancellor's Closet
- Annual Title I Parent Conference
 - o Board Member Focus Group
- NJSBA County Association Leadership Meeting

Upcoming Events, Meeting Reminders

- Annual Soul Bowl Football Game
- Parent/Teacher Conference
- Regular Board Meeting: December 19th at East Ward Elementary School at 6:00 pm

9. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported on the following:

- Attendance: October 2024
- The Next Decade:
 - o 2020-3- Strategic Plan
 - o Year 5

Superintendent's Report continued

- Quarter 1 Highlights
- Newark Enrolls
 - Applications Timeline SY 2025-26
 - Application Window Opened: November 2nd
 - Application Window Closes: February 7th
 - Match Letters Released: April 18th tentative
- Auditions: November to January
 - Arts High School
 - Barringer High School
 - East Side High School
- 9th Grade High School Admissions Test
 - NBOE 8th Graders
 - February 14th or February 21st
 - Non-NBOE 8th Graders
 - February 15th or February 22nd
 - Location: Science Park High School, 260 Norfolk Street at 8:30am
- Saturday School for Juniors
 - December 7 & 14
 - January 4, 11, 18 & 25
 - February 1, 8, 15 & 22
 - March 1 & 8
- Saturday School for Elementary Students
 - January 4, 11, 18 & 25
 - February 1, 8, 15 & 22
 - March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
 - April 5, 12 & 26

10. Public Participation

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

- Alexa Brown-Hill
- Kathleen Witcher
- Carol Wisneiski
- Nadirah Brown
- Lyndon Brown
- David Daughety

11. Finance & Operations - Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to approve Finance & Operations items 11.2 – 11.22.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. James-Frison

Roll call vote:

Finance & Operations continued

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion carried.

12. Personnel – Votes

There was a motion made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Personnel items 13.2 – 13.10.

Moved: Mr. Gonzalez
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion carried.

13. General Counsel – Legal – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve the General Counsel items 15.1-15.2.

Moved: Ms. Santana
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana
and Mr. Council 6
Nays: 0
Abstentions: Ms. Williams 1

Motion carried.

14. Instruction & Program – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Instruction & Program items 17.2 – 17.7.

Moved: Ms. Anderson
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion carried.

15. Executive Session

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters within the attorney- client-privilege.

Moved: Ms. Santana
Seconded: Ms. James-Frison
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council **7**
Nays: **0**
Abstentions: **0**

Motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes of the Executive Session are attached.

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Williams, to reconvene in open session.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Williams
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison,
Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council **8**
Nays: **0**
Abstentions: **0**

Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:27 p.m.

There was a motion made by Ms. James-Frison, seconded by Ms. Santana, to rescind resolution items 15.2, 15.3, and 15.4 adopted by the Board of Education on February 23, 2023, and to authorize counsel to take any and all action to protect the interests of the Board of Education.

Moved: Ms. James-Frison
Seconded: Ms. Santana
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, and Ms. Santana **4**
Nays: Ms. Williams **1**
Abstentions: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, and, Mr. Council **3**

Motion carried.

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to authorize the filing of a petition to the Commission of Education. On behalf of the Board of Education, as discussed by the Board in closed session.

Moved: Ms. Santana

Seconded: Mr. Gonzalez

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, and Ms. Santana **4**

Nays: Ms. Williams **1**

Abstentions Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, and, Mr. Council **3**

Motion carried.

16. Adjournment

There was a motion made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Williams to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Mr. Gonzalez

Seconded: Ms. Williams

Voice vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison,
Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council **8**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 pm.

Submitted by:

Ms. La Shon Blake, Office of Board Relations

Reviewed by:

Ms. Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent