



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Board Operations Committee Meeting
Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
5:30 pm

Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	December 15, 2021	5:33pm
Board Members		
Josephine Garcia	Hasani Council	
Shayvonne Anderson	Dawn Haynes	
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Valerie Wilson	Dr. Shakirah Harrington	
Other District Staff		
Krystle Whitlock-Ude	Anthony Jackson	
Imani Moody	Rashon Dwight	
Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Hasan Bullock	
Carlos Edmundo	Levi Holmes	
Lisa Abdul	Victoria Rivera	
Rodney Williams	Rochanda Jackson	
Vince Hutcheson		
Ben Olagadeyo		
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
<p><u>Transportation</u> During this operations committee meeting, Pupil Transportation provided an overview of the transportation resources that were provided to Newark students during the month of November. Also highlighted were the various compliance measures that are in place to ensure that vendor bus companies are in line with State and District guidelines such as the review of companies' business registration, insurances and evaluation of the company's drivers certifications and credentials. Two new Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) team members were on boarded this month and will also be responsible for certifying compliance for all field operations.</p>		

Planning, Evaluation & Testing

The November Attendance Report was reviewed with the Operations Committee. Overall, the district’s positive metric of rarely absent rate was 43.1% which was higher than the month before and the daily attendance rate was 90.5%. A total of 22 schools across the district had rarely absent rates that were equal to or higher than the district average.

Security

The Newark Board of Education Office of Safety 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 Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reports. Data show a slight reduction in current SSDS reported incidents compared to pre pandemic numbers. The Office of Safety will continue to update security staff schedules in and around district schools, work with Local, County, State Police, and Fire Department offering safe passage to and from school for students.

Facilities

The Facilities Department continues its commitment to the continuing renovation and modernization of our buildings and grounds through In-house work, Energy Savings Improvement Programs (ESIP) projects, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant award, and forthcoming initiatives. District continues to expand school property and grounds through the signing of St. Casimir’s lease. Recycling initiative continues to progress.

Item: Transportation	
Lead(s): Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Priority/Strategy 1:1.1

Comments: For the month of November, 3,813 students received busing an increase of 223 from previous month. Students eligible for bus tickets increased by 177 for total of 13,831. On-boarded two transportation inspectors currently under-going training. School bus evacuation drills to take place twice each school year.

Item: Planning, Evaluation & Testing	
Lead(s): Rochanda Jackson	Priority/Strategy: 1:1.1

Comments: Overall absenteeism for the month of November - 46% rarely absent; 13% severely chronically absent.

Item: Security	
Lead(s): Levi Holmes	Priority/Strategy: 1:1.1

Comments: Student Safety Data System (SSDS) report data scrubbed based on SLT. Month of November reported fifty-seven (57) incidents. Forty (40) incidents of violence; one (1) incident leading to an arrest; four (4) incidents of vandalism; three (3) incidents of weapons, four (4) incidents of substance; five (5) incidents leading to removal. Decrease in incidents from October to November. Suspension disposition was the most frequent consequence. Fights and assaults were the most reported incidents. North and High School SLTs had the most reported incidents. Safe Passage with County and local Police aligned with NBOE Office of Safety patrol before and after school is on-going.

Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB) report: thirty-nine (39) HIB related incidents reported of which twenty-four (24) were confirmed and fifteen (15) alleged. East/Central: 10 (3 alleged, 7 confirmed); North Ward: 14 (8 alleged; 6 confirmed); South/West Ward: 8 (2 alleged, 6 confirmed); High School: 7 (2 alleged, 5 confirmed). Of thirty-nine HIB related incidents, there were sixteen (16) suspensions.

Attorney General Guidance on Marijuana: above six (6) ounces for an arrest. Six ounces or less (not a crime). NBOE Office of Safety will, however, confiscate and send notifications to parents and police department.

Operations: forty hours of school resource training and PowerDMS training for staff.

Item: Facilities	
Lead(s): Valerie Wilson	Priority/Strategy:1:1.1

Comments: In the process of finalizing lease of St. Casimir (Ironbound Academy). Two-year lease with three (3) one-year option for renewal. March 2022 to August 2022, Facilities will be making necessary repairs to get building ready to accept students in September 2022. Initially, grades K-4 with increase of fifty students to grade five in year two.

BRIC – Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities Project – Ann Street Green project to divert storm water; which will impact Ann Street school. Possible start date 2023 if it should move forward.

American Rescue Plan (**ARP**) application submitted in November. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (**ESSER**) II spending progressing.

Facilities Newsletter presented

Meeting Adjourned	
The Committee agreed to move Resolutions Forward to The Full Board	St. Casimir’s Lease Comprehensive Maintenance (M-1) Report Leased Spaces
Miscellaneous	Request for Food Service update @ next meeting Request for Facilitron Contract Request for Truancy/Attendance Counselor
Adjournment Time	6:58pm
Minutes Submitted By	<i>Lisa Abdul</i>