



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, January 27, 2022

Board President Dawn Haynes convened the meeting at 6:00 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., 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.

**II. Flag Salute**

**III. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

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

Ms. Anderson arrived at 6:03 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

**IV. Recognitions**

Superintendent León presented recognitions of the following:

- **Participants in the Annual Art Administrators of New Jersey (AANJ) Emerging Artists Exhibit, including:**
  - Arts High School
    - Oluwatofunmi Fadugba, Student Artist
    - Toni Thomas, Art Teacher
  - Central High School
    - Keyshawn Boyd, Student Artist
    - Stephen B. Ellis, Art Teacher
  - East Side High School
    - Esmeralda Garcia, Student Artist
    - Denise Wiseman, Art Teacher
  - Technology High School

- Lizette Quintuna, Student Artist
- Amanda Stefanese, Art Teacher
- University High School
  - Marbelys Martinez, Student Artist
  - Stacey Graham, Art Teacher
- **Participants in National Girls and Women in Sports Day, including:**
  - American History High School
    - Serenity Loyal, Basketball
  - Arts High School
    - Jayliene Agosto – Volleyball and Softball
  - Bard Early College
    - Sarah Wiltshire - Volleyball
  - Barringer High School
    - Anisha Able – Volleyball and Basketball
  - Central High School
    - Destiny Hines – Cross Country, Basketball, and Outdoor Track
  - East Side High School
    - Yeimy Rodriguez- Volleyball and Basketball
  - Malcolm X Shabazz
    - Chelsea Mensah - Basketball
  - Science Park High School
    - Paula Marie Brown – Volleyball, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track
  - Technology High School
    - Kiarra Melendez – Soccer, Bowling, and Softball
  - University High School
    - Sa'diyyah Robinson – Basketball
  - Weequahic High School
    - Michelle Ikedi - Basketball
  - West Side High School
    - Onessa Jeune – Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track
- **Joining the Portuguese National Soccer Team:**
  - East Side High School student, Adelaide Paredes

**V. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021, Regular Board Meeting.

**Moved:** Ms. Gacia

**Seconded:** Ms. 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 voice vote.**

**VI. Student Representative's Report**

Student Representative Gonzalez reported to the Board of Education on the following:

- FAESA Tik Tok Challenge
- COVID Testing and Vaccination
- STEMgirls
- Changemakers Project

**VII. Board President's Report**

Board President Haynes began her report by leading everyone in a breathing/mindfulness exercise. She then reported on the following:

- The Board Retreat held on Saturday, January 22, 2022, including the presentation and discussion led by NJSBA Field Representative Charlene Peterson on Ethics and Fundamentals of Board Membership
- 2022 School Election Candidate Packets
- Budget Hearing March 28, 2022
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting and Transition Series Workshop
- Newark Enrolls

**VIII. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent León began his report by acknowledging Board Member Recognition Month thanking and presenting each of them with an award in recognition of their service.

The Superintendent then reported to the Board on the following items:

- COVID-19 Update
- Safe Return Plan: 2021-2022
- District Protocols
- Vaccination & Testing
- EdResearch for Recovery, June 2020 Research Report
- The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan
- Newark Enrolls
- Timeline for Budget: FY 2022-23
- High School Transcripts Audit Review

Board members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

**IX. 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:

Kathleen Witcher, Viva White, Deborah Smith Gregory, Leah Owens and Cassandra Dock

**X. Board Resolutions**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve the Board Resolution on English Language Learners. After discussion, the motion carried.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia  
**Seconded:** Mr. Council  
**Roll call vote:**  
**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**

**XI. Finance & Operations**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Finance and Operations Items 11.1 to 11.19.

**Moved:** Mr. Council  
**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas** Ms. Anderson Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **9**  
**Nays:** None **0**

**Motion carried.**

**XII. Personnel**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve Personnel Items 12.1-12.9.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia  
**Seconded:** Ms. Johnson  
**Roll call vote:**  
**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.**

**XIII. Program & Instruction**

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to approve Program & Instruction Items 13.1-13.9.

**Moved:** Ms. Murray - Thomas  
**Seconded:** Mr. Gonzalez  
**Roll call vote:**  
**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**

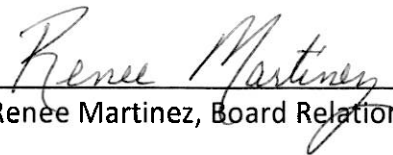
**Motion carried.**

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Norton moved, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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

Submitted by:

  
Renee Martinez, Board Relations

Reviewed by:

  
Brenda C. Liss, General Counsel

**Resolved, that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Newark Board of Education, Thursday, January 27, 2022, be and are hereby adopted.**

Approved by:

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Mr. Roger León, Superintendent