



Committee Report

Board Development and Governance Committee

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	12/20/21	5:00 PM
Board Members		
D. Haynes, Board President	J. Garcia	
V. Santana, Co-Vice President		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
B. Liss, General Counsel	R. León, Superintendent	
Other District Staff		
H. Nazario, Chief of Staff	P. Luke, Executive Legal Assistant	
N. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent	I. Moody, Assistant School Business Administrator	
N. Deering, Director of Board Relations	K. Whitlock, Assistant School Business Administrator	
A. Zartarian, Deputy General Counsel		
Guests		
None		
Meeting Summary		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Committee received reports from the Superintendent and staff and discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 Update - Equity Group Update - Charter School Reports, Renewals, Leases - Juneteenth <p>Call to Order: 5:05 PM Adjournment: 7:05 PM</p>		

Item: COVID-19 Update	
Lead(s): R. León	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent León reported on COVID-19 positive cases, which have increased significantly. Given the increase, the district is preparing to pivot to remote instruction if necessary after the winter recess. Communications have been sent to all staff and parents informing them of plans, protocols and procedures that began this week and will be implemented in the coming weeks. Additionally, today (Monday), the Superintendent met with principals, union leaders, representatives of charter schools and private schools, school pandemic response teams, and the Newark Public Schools Reopening Task Force

to update them. Preparations include assisting students and families in reviewing and preparing their remote instruction locations with technology, connectivity, and all required instructional materials. The staff development day scheduled for January 16, 2022 has been moved to this Thursday, December 23, and therefore schools will not be in session for students on that day. During the break, deep cleaning protocols are scheduled for all schools and buildings. In January, weekly testing in schools will resume, all staff will be required to be administered a rapid test the first week after return, and the focus on the academic program and strategies to address students' social-emotional needs will resume.

Item: Equity Group Update	
Lead(s): R. León, B. Liss	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent León and Ms. Liss provided an update on the district's Equity Group. The group has been expanded to include additional principals as well as Central Office directors of special education and bilingual education and representatives of the purchasing, budget, and human resource services departments. Ms. Liss reported on the group's meeting earlier this month. The group will be meeting frequently in coming months with the goal of developing recommendations for action to address any identified inequity.

President Haynes commented on the importance of the work of the group and that it should be driven by an equity policy, as previously discussed by the Board. Superintendent León suggested that a proposed policy should be recommended to the Governance Committee for possible first reading in January. President Haynes also recommended that an ad hoc Equity Committee of the Board of Education be convened to meet on the same day each month as the Governance Committee. This recommendation will be given further consideration.

Item: Charter School Renewals, Leases, Expansions	
Lead(s): R. León, B. Liss	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent León reported on renewal requests and expansion requests recently submitted by several charter schools. The Committee discussed issues raised by those requests and comments submitted, or to be submitted, to the Commissioner of Education in response. Additionally, the Superintendent and Ms. Liss reviewed issues relating to certain leases of school buildings to charter schools, with terms established several years ago. The Committee discussed these issues and facilities needs in district schools.

Item: Juneteenth	
Lead(s): R. León	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

The Juneteenth holiday will be recognized in all schools during the last week of school this year. The dates and specific details of each school's Juneteenth program will be publicized, and Board members will be invited to attend any of the programs if they wish.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.