



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, September 30, 2021

President Dawn Haynes convened the meeting at approximately 6:03p.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:**

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

**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**

Ms. León recognized the following:

- Every student in the district for their incredible endurance
  
- The GreatSchools College Success Award – Gold
  - Bard Early College High School
  - Science Park High School
  - Technology High School
  
- New Schools 2021-2022
- Recipients of the following Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Recipients
  - Jhair Gutierrez – East Side High School
  - Gabrieliz Sanz – Malcolm X Shabazz High School
  - Tamara Rosario – West Side High School
  - Franksheska Cando-Bravo – Central High School

**V. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2021, Board Retreat, August 24, 2021, Board Business and the August 26, 2021, Regular Board Meeting.

**Moved:** Mr. Council  
**Seconded:** Ms. Norton

**Yeas:** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson,  
Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, and Ms. Haynes. **7**  
**Nays:** None **0**  
**Abstentions:** Ms. Garcia and Ms. Santana **2**

**Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**VI. Student Representative's Report**

Student Representative Kimberly Gonzalez reported on the following items:

1. STEAMpark
2. Virtual Parent University
3. COVID – 19 Testing/Vaccines
4. College Fairs

Board members' questions were answered by Ms. Gonzalez and Deputy Johnson.

**VII. Board President's Report**

President Haynes reported on the following items:

1. New Schools
2. CUBE Conference
3. Equity Plan
4. Virtual Parent Engagement Tour

**VIII. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. León reported to the Board on the following items:

- Three New Schools
- COVID - 19 Update
- Safe Return Plan 2021-2022
- District Protocols
- EdResearch for Recovery
- Chromebooks
- COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Locations
- Vaccines for Teens
- Bus Driver Shortage
- Testing Dates
- Vendor Training

- Five Legal Matters
- Open House for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

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, Deborah Smith Gregory, Christopher Canik, Nicole Sanderson, Yolanda Johnson, Yvette Jordan, Denise Cole, Amir Colter, Cassandra Dock, and Donna Jackson.

**X. Finance & Operations**

There was a motion made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve Finance and Operations Items 10.1 to 10.32.

**Moved:** Mr. Gonzalez  
**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**

**Motion carried.**

**XI. Personnel**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve Personnel Items 11.1-11.9.

**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**

**Motion carried.**

**XII. General Counsel – Legal Votes**

There was a motion made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve General Counsel items 12.1 to 12.2.

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

<b>Yeas</b>	Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.	<b>9</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	None	<b>0</b>

**Motion carried.**

**XIII. Program & Instruction**

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Program & Instruction Items 13.1-13.21.

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

**Motion carried.**

Mr. León welcomed Yakima Johnson, the new Principal of Cleveland Elementary School.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Ms. Haynes moved, seconded by Mr. Council, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 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, August 26, 2021 be and are hereby adopted.**

Approved by:

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Mr. Roger León, Superintendent