



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, November 23, 2021

President Dawn Haynes convened the meeting at approximately 6:01 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 the meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

II. Flag Salute

III. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Anderson and Mr. 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:

- All high school students participating in athletics – 1,179 students in all – including the following fall season highlights:

Tournament Champions

Cross Country – Science Park High School
Girls' Volleyball – East Side High School
Boys' Soccer – East Side High School

Colonial Division Champions

Boys' Cross Country – University High School
Boys' Cross Country – Science Park High School

Freedom Division Champions
Girls' Volleyball – Arts High

Football State Qualifiers
Malcolm X Shabazz High School
Weequahic High School
West Side High School

Girls' Volleyball State Qualifiers
Arts High School
Barringer High School
East Side High School
Science Park High School
Technology High School

Boys' Soccer State Qualifiers
Barringer High School
East Side High School
Technology High School
West Side High School

Girls' Soccer State Qualifiers
East Side High School
Science Park High School

Cross Country State Qualifiers
Stephen Akosah – Science Park High School Grade 12: 5th place North 2 Group 2

Number of Student – Athletes on All Conference Teams
Boys' Soccer: 21
Girls' Soccer: 10
Girls' Volleyball: 38
Cross Country: 18

John F. Kennedy School Sled Hockey Team
Sanayyah Baker Kahlil Blanding
Andrew Gomez Perla Guzman
Yassiel Martinez Hrnnrsy Reddick
Anderson Reyes Malaysia Sevilla
Al-Muneer Strange Quashir Wilson

**Newark School of Fashion & Design Family, Career and Community Leaders Association
(FCCLA) Fashion Competition Leaders**

Creative Stitches

- Gold: Sa Kayla McLendon
- Bronze: Ayesha Jawneh

Posters

1st Place: Gold

- Ciara Encarnacion
- Tiffany Feliciano
- Leslie Santillan

2nd Place: Gold

- Zhamariah Godfrey
- Jaeda Ballard

Passion for Fashion Sketches

- Silver: Yamile Idrovo
- Silver: Maria Clara Colodetti
- Silver: Khaye Robertson
- Bronze: Amanda Silva

V. Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Council

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

- FY 21-22 Quarterly Forecast
- Transportation
- ESSA and ESEA Programs
- Extended Day Enrichment Services
- Renewal of Mentoring Services
- ARP/ESSER II
- Newark Enrolls Memorandum of Understanding
- Budget calendar
- Budget Committee members
- Election Calendar
- 155 Jefferson Street

Personnel Committee – Ms. Johnson

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

- Staffing
- Employee Services
- Negotiations Update
- Recommendations for Board Action

- Recruitment
- Ironbound Academy

Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee – Ms. Garcia

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

- Parent Engagement Tour
- Sex Trafficking Policy
- Parent Liaison Professional Development – November 16, 2021
- Parent University
- Title I Parent Conference
- Student Support Service Updates

Operations Committee - Ms. Garcia

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

- Transportation
- Planning, Evaluating & Testing
- Security
- Facilities
- 155 Jefferson Street
- St. Casimir
- Roof Replacements
- Bond Issuance
- Recycling Initiative – First Avenue is the first Silver Sustainable School

Program and Instruction Committee - Ms. Murray-Thomas

Ms. Murray-Thomas reported that the following items were discussed at the Program and Instruction Committee meeting:

- Start Strong Data
- Resolutions
- P&I Calendar
- Community Roundtable
- Newark Parent Instagram Page

Governance Committee - Ms. Haynes

Ms. Haynes reported that the following were discussed at the Governance Committee meeting:

- The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan
- COVID-19 Updates
- Start Strong Preliminary Report
- 2022-23 Budget Calendar
- 2022-23 School Year Calendars
- Equity Group Update
- Newark Enrolls MOU
- Charter School Reports, Renewals, Leases

- Travel Policy Update
- Pending Legal Matters

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve the committee meeting reports.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Norton
Yeas Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton,
Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **7**
Nays: None **0**

Motion carried by a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Moved: Mr. Council
Seconded: Ms. Santana
Yeas: Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton,
Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **7**
Nays: None **0**

Motion carried by a voice vote.

VII. Student Representative's Report

Student Representative Kimberly Gonzalez provided her monthly report to the Board of Education.

VIII. Board President's Report

President Haynes reported on the following items:

- Arts Education Landscape Baseline Report
- 35th Annual Title I Parent Conference
- COVID testing
- District hiring
- Newark Enrolls
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting
- Additionally, the Board President called for a moment of silence for those whose lives have been lost.

IX. Superintendent's Report

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

- The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan
- COVID-19 Update
- Safe Return Plan: 2021-2022
- Guidance for Remote Instruction
- District Protocols
- Vaccinations & Testing
- Ms. Jackson presented October 2021 Attendance Data
- Ms. Han presented the Start Strong 2021-22: Preliminary Report, with further explanation provided by Mr. León
- Mr. Matos presented the Quarterly Financial Forecast.

Board members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

X. 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:

Christopher Canik, Vanness Roper, R. Jamaal Gourdine, Kathleen Witcher, Nicole Sanderson, Yvette Jordan, Viva White, Denise Cole, Nicole Dixon, Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder and Deborah Smith Gregory.

XI. Finance & Operations

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve Finance and Operations Items 11.1 to 11.34.

Moved:	Ms. Garcia	
Seconded:	Mr. Council	
Roll call vote:		
Yeas	Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.	6
Nays:	None	0
Abstentions:	Ms. Norton abstained from the item providing authorization for district travel	1

Motion carried.

XII. Personnel

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

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Santana

Roll call vote:

Yeas Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **7**

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XIII. Program & Instruction

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to approve Program & Instruction Items 14.1-14.13.

Moved: Ms. Murray-Thomas

Seconded: Ms. Haynes

Roll call vote:

Yeas Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **7**

Nays: None **0**

Motion carried.

XIV. Executive Session

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and matters within the attorney – client privilege.

Moved: Mr. Council

Seconded: Ms. Haynes

Roll call vote:

Yeas Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **6**

Nays: None **0**

Abstention: Ms. Norton **1**

Motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE ATTACHED

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to reconvene in open session. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved:	Ms. Garcia	
Seconded:	Mr. Council	
Yeas	Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.	7
Nays:	None	0

Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:05 p.m. The following Board members were present: Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Council moved, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

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Minutes of Executive Session Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Executive Session called to order at 9:25 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

Ms. Nicole T. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Javier Nazario, Chief of Staff

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary

Attorney – Client Privilege

The Board discussed legal issues pertaining to leases and pending litigation.

Personnel

Board members asked questions about performance and support provided to certain employees, which were answered by Superintendent León.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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, Tuesday, November 23, 2021 be and are hereby adopted.

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent