



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Board Operations Committee Meeting
Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
5:30 pm

Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	November 15, 2023	5:30pm
Board Members		
Josephine Garcia	Hasani Council	
Dawn Hayes		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Valerie Wilson	Krystle Whitlock	
Other District Staff		
Hasan Bullock		
Christopher Caponegro		
Quanika Dukes-Spruill		
Carlos Edmundo		
Levi Holmes		
Anthony Jackson		
Roxanna Morales		
Benjamin Olagadeyo		
Elayier Pickett		
DaVonne Salley		
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
<u>Meeting called to order by Board Member Council at 5:35 pm</u>		
<u>Office of Pupil Transportation</u>		
Pupil Transportation provided data showing the increase in students eligible for transportation resources this year compared to this time last year. It showed 1,204 more students eligible in busing, public transportation and ELL courtesy busing. Director Dukes-Spruill shared the various student transportation safety and compliance initiatives that are underway such as on-site driver training		

courses, managing drug and alcohol abstracts for school bus drivers and an update on the school bus application initiative for real time bus route communication.

The committee was informed of various in-district transportation efforts provided by district bus drivers, the compliance and school bus inspection efforts of the district's transportation inspectors. Transportation inspectors increased on-site inspections this month by 198 from this time last school. Therefore, certifying that the goals and objectives of efficiency and compliance are carried out by school bus vendors who provide transportation services to district students.

Office of Safety and Security

Office of Safety is dedicated to provide a safe, secure, and orderly environment for all students and staff. A key part to enhancing student and staff safety is the daily review of SSDS (Student Safety Data System) reports. Data showed a slight reduction in current SSDS reported incidents compared to last school year and the prior month. The Office of Safety will continue to update security staff schedules as incident evolve and continue to work with our partners to improve all security vulnerabilities.

Through the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) funding, the Office of Safety & Security implemented many new safety protocols and technology. This includes an increase in emergency response units with 10 new vehicles, a state-of-the-art command center, bag scanners in high schools, enhanced visitor management with Lobby Guard technology, and many other security upgrades.

Board Members Hasani Council, Dawn Haynes, and myself inquired about the shooting that took place at Central High School, the protocols for addressing the incident, and dispersing information to student's families and the community. The Office of Safety and Security stated what the protocols were, which are in line with State of NJ regulations and the template that was used to send out information was also from district protocols. Mr. Hasan Bullock reported that the investigation is ongoing.

I inquired and provided information with regards to hiring crossing guards in-district. Executive Director Levi Holmes advised that there are efforts currently in place to provide coverage.

Office of Facilities Management

Facilities Interim Executive Director Carlos Edmundo provided status updates on the following; Malcolm X Shabazz Field and Untermann Field's completion, contactless water fountain installation, status of work orders, and HVAC upgrades districtwide.

Mr. Christopher Caponegro of the Facilities Management Department presented a video of Facilities Conditions Assessment. This included a comprehensive data base of 3D digital plans, updated or new floor plans, and a comprehensive data base of all the aspects of each school in the district. Mr. Edmundo also discussed the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan which is a report that is a New Jersey State requirement under NJ Admin. Code 6A: 26-20.3(Required Maintenance Activities) and NJ Admin. Code 6A:26-20.5 (Required for Comprehensive Maintenance Plans). This report documents prior-year required maintenance activities and expenditures, the school district's planned required maintenance activities, and budgeted costs for the filing year and one subsequent year.

During the meeting, the request for installation of a mural at Grover Cleveland Mural was also reviewed for approval. The mural is a tribute to the "Resiliency" of the Rams and will be installed by Suliman

Onque. The mural includes multicultural superhero students flying, as well as students standing by a tree of colorful hands raising up showing unity and striving for their goals.

Miscellaneous

School Business Administrator Valerie Wilson provided an update on the district’s spending analysis for American Rescue Plan (ARP). She highlighted several initiatives that are funded with ARP funds, including facilities projects and Saturday Academy. The district is on track to spend these funds by the September 2024 deadline.

Board Member Haynes inquired about marquees in front of schools. Mr. Edmundo provided an update and issues Facilities is encountering with installation. Fellow Board members Haynes, Council, and myself asked for ongoing updates regarding this project.

Also, I informed the committee that an overview of BoardDocs will be presented in Governance Committee.

Meeting was adjourned by myself at 7:02 PM.

Meeting Adjourned	
The Committee agreed to move Resolution(s) Forward to The Full Board	All voting items approved to be presented to the full board
Miscellaneous	N/A
Adjournment Time	7:02 PM by Joseph Garcia
Minutes Submitted By	DaVonne Salley

