



## Committee Report

Board Development and Governance Committee

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	8/23/21	5:00 PM
<b>Board Members</b>		
D. Haynes, Board President	F. Johnson-Hill, Board Vice-President	
S. Anderson		
<b>District Liaison &amp; Superintendent Representative</b>		
B. Liss, General Counsel	R. Leon, Superintendent	
<b>Other District Staff</b>		
H. Nazario, Chief of Staff	P. Luke, Executive Legal Assistant	
D. Scutari, Executive Assistant	V. Wilson, School Business Administrator	
N. Deering, Director of Board Relations	A. Zartarian, Deputy General Counsel	
<b>Guests</b>		
N/A		
<b>Meeting Summary</b>		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Committee received reports from the Superintendent and discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Safe Return Plan</li> <li>- Calendar for the 2021-22 school year, including Juneteenth recognition</li> <li>- Proposed Student Governance Committee, presented to the Committee by Board Member Anderson as representative of the Parent Engagement and Student Life Committee.</li> <li>- The ESB (Electronic School Board) website, specifically a new feature to be implemented, allowing each posted resolution to specify the affected or relevant section of the Strategic Plan</li> <li>- Charter School Reports, Leases, and Programs</li> <li>- Pending Legal Matters, specifically the pending investigation and proposed agreement pertaining to programs and services for English language learners</li> <li>- District Staff Convocation 2021</li> </ul> <p>The proposed Student Governance Committee would be composed of students elected from every high school of grade levels 9, 10, 11, and 12. The purpose of the committee would be to give students an institutionalized role in shaping decisions that directly affect their education and educational experiences. The Committee agreed with the recommendation to establish such a committee. A copy of the proposed policy establishing the committee is attached to this report. The Committee agreed to recommend action by the full Board of Education adopting the policy. A resolution adopting the policy on first reading will be placed on the agenda for this month's Business Meeting, and a resolution adopting the policy on second reading will be placed on the agenda for this month's regular meeting.</p> <p>Call to Order: 5:06 PM Adjournment: 6:00 PM</p>		

Item: Safe Return Plan	
Lead(s): N. Johnson, R. Leon	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent Leon reminded the Committee that the District has been implementing its Safe Return Plan successfully since April 12. The full Board was given the most recent update this past Saturday at the Board retreat. The Superintendent also mentioned that the Governor earlier in the day had announced that all public school employees will be required to submit proof of vaccination or documentation of weekly negative test results. He stated that the District is awaiting further clarification and direction from the Commissioner of Education.

Item: Calendar for 2021-22 School Year	
Lead(s): D. Haynes, R. Leon	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent Leon asked for the Committee’s input on whether to establish Juneteenth as a holiday on the annual school calendar. After discussion, the Committee reached consensus that that, similar to last year, Juneteenth should be recognized and celebrations conducted in schools across the District, but the day should not be established as a day off from school.

Item: Ad Hoc Student Advisory Committee Proposal	
Lead(s): D. Haynes	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Board member Anderson read a proposal forwarded to the Parent Engagement and Student Life Committee by a group of students, recommending establishment of an ad hoc Student Governance Committee, which would allow designated students to be involved in some capacity in District initiatives and decision-making. The entity, which would meet monthly, would consist of a representative from each high school’s student government. Board member Anderson expressed that it was important for students to have a role in shaping decisions affecting them and also a voice on behalf of students in their schools. Board members Haynes and Johnson-Hill agreed that this was a worthy proposal and added that it coincided with District initiatives regarding student involvement as well as the civics curriculum.

Superintendent Leon agreed with the proposal with the understanding that all high schools be represented and that all would have representatives from each grade. While the student committee could not have any formal voting rights, the representatives would meet with the Superintendent and have influence on decisions. He suggested that the Committee be formalized by adoption of a policy, adopted on first reading at this month’s business meeting and on second reading at this month’s regular meeting. The Committee agreed to recommend establishment of the committee.

Item: ESB & The Next Decade 2020-30	
Lead(s): N. Deering	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Ms. Deering informed the Committee of a feature to be implemented on ESB (the Electronic School Board website), by which every resolution posted on the site would include a designation of the relevant priority

from the District's Strategic Plan, enabling the public to see which priorities are aligned with each resolution. This feature will be implemented on all resolutions beginning in September.

Item: Charter Schools (Annual Reports, Leases, Programs)	
Lead(s): R. Leon, B. Liss, H. Nazario	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

The Committee received an update on charter school reports and leases from Superintendent Leon and Ms. Liss. Mr. Leon also reported that he has conducted meetings with charter school representatives to discuss programs at those schools, and one such meeting is scheduled later this week.

Item: Pending Legal Matters	
Lead(s): B. Liss, R. Leon	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Ms. Liss and Superintendent Leon updated the Committee and provided members an opportunity to ask questions on the proposed settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the District's programs and services for English language learners.

Item: District Staff Convocation 2021	
Lead(s): R. Leon	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Superintendent Leon reminded the Committee that this year's District Staff Convocation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2021, and will be virtual. He noted that the convocation will feature his comments, videos, and special recognitions of staff. He encouraged all Board members to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

## **File Code 9130 Committee Enactment**

### **Amendment: District Student Governance Committee**

The purpose of the District Student Governance Committee is to give students an institutionalized role in shaping decisions that directly affect their education and educational experiences. The Committee will be composed of students elected from every high school of grade levels 9, 10, 11, & 12. It is imperative all high schools are represented and hold a presence on this committee. There will be only student members within the committee who are elected by their peers. Such elections will be held during school during the same time as student government elections which will take place during the beginning of fall each year. Every school shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and District Representative.

The job of the respective District Representatives will be to attend monthly committee meetings, report to the committee about the state of their designated school, discuss topics relevant to the agenda, discuss legislation and actions being currently taken by the board, promote initiatives for the Board Student Representative to push for on the Board, and provide advison to the Board Student Representative. This body will serve to give the Student Representative more responsibility as well as accountability via advocating for initiatives or weighing in on initiatives currently in motion/discussion by the Board. Such items **include but are not limited to** policies that directly impact students educational experience which pertains to the following:

- Student Transportation
- School food vendor transactions and alterations
- Curriculum amendments and alterations
- Disciplinary Code interpretations and modifications
- Uniform policy amendments
- Daily operations and programs of each school

The mission of this committee is multifaceted. It is set to accomplish a number of goals including:

1. Giving our students a direct seat at the table.
2. Promoting civic engagement and establishing Student Governments in every high school every year.
3. Present insight into how our district educational government system works and the discernment of what the NBOE does, how they do it, and how it impacts students.
4. Bringing together a coalition of young student leaders across the City of Newark to network, collaborate, and collectively drive initiatives to make their academic experience better.
5. Enabling student voice, student involvement, and student power.
6. Cultivating a direct system to disseminate information amongst the student body across the city to keep students engaged and informed on all things their district is doing.

The District Student Governance Committee members' first vote each year will be to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to the committee. The Chairperson elected will not only chair the committee but will also represent the students of the district as the Board Student Representative to the Newark Board of Education. In the case of an emergency or unavailability, the Vice-Chairperson will take the Chairperson's place at a board meeting to report out and conduct committee hearing duties unless otherwise directed at the discretion of the committee.

*(Taken from-File Code 1220 AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEES)*

Recommendations from the committee shall not reduce the responsibility of the Board, which shall be free to accept or reject the recommendations as it sees fit. It will be the responsibility of the Chairperson to see that the members of the committee are informed as to the final decision of the Board.

When the law regulates the formation and activities of an advisory committee, the administration shall cooperate fully in its activities.

*Authored by David Daughety*

*Sponsored by Newark Students Union*