



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Committee Report

Committee Name: Legal Committee

Location	Date	Time
WebEx	September 22, 2021	5:30 PM
<b>Board Members</b>		
Asia Norton, Committee Chair	Verilez Santana, Board Member	
Daniel Gonzalez, Vice Chair		
<b>District Liaison &amp; Superintendent Representative</b>		
Brenda Liss, General Counsel	Havier Nazario, Chief of Staff	
<b>Other District Staff</b>		
Arsen Zartarian, Deputy General Counsel	Robyn Critelli, Executive Legal Assistant	
Homere Breton, Executive Legal Assistant		
<b>Guests</b>		
<b>Meeting Summary</b>		
<p>The Committee had only one item on its agenda: a recommendation and request for Board action approving and authorizing a proposed settlement of certain pending litigation. After receiving a report and explanation of the case and the proposed settlement from General Counsel, Committee members discussed and agreed to recommend that the matter proceed to the full Board of Education for approval.</p> <p>After considering this request, Committee Chair Norton asked for a discussion regarding conduct of students off school grounds. General Counsel explained the pertinent legal issues and the Chief of Staff discussed the issues from the perspective of school administrators.</p> <p>The details of the proposed settlement and the committee discussion on that matter and in response to the Committee Chair’s questions are subject to the attorney-client privilege.</p> <p>The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Norton at 5:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.</p>		

Item: Request for Board Action	
Lead(s): Brenda C. Liss, Arsen Zartarian	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

General Counsel presented a request for the Committee’s recommendation in favor of Board action approving and authorizing a proposed settlement of pending litigation. She described the facts alleged in the Complaint, explained the legal issues and potential liability, and summarized settlement discussions the plaintiff’s settlement demand and outside counsel’s recommendation.

After hearing the report, committee members commented briefly and agreed unanimously to recommend Board approval of the proposed settlement. A resolution approving and authorizing the settlement will be on the agenda for the September 30 Board meeting.

Item: Additional Item/Discussion	
Lead(s): Brenda C. Liss	Priority/Strategy:

Comments:

Ms. Liss responded to Chair Norton’s questions about student conduct off school grounds and provided a general overview of the law in that area. Chief of Staff Nazario also discussed the topic of student conduct and appropriate response by school administrators faced with various situations involving conduct off school grounds that has an impact on the educational program.

Before the meeting adjourned, Ms. Liss noted that this was the last Legal Committee meeting to be attended by Executive Legal Assistant Robyn Critelli, who will be retiring next week. Chair Norton recognized Ms. Critelli’s many years of public service including her service to the Newark Board of Education and, in particular, the Office of General Counsel and the Board’s Legal Committee. She also welcomed Executive Legal Assistant Homere Breton, who is not new to the district but will be taking over Ms. Critelli’s duties for the Legal Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.