



Committee Report

Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee Meeting

Location	Date	Time
Virtual via WEBEX	September 18, 2023	5:30pm-7:31pm
Board Members		
Committee Chairperson Dawn Haynes	Allison James- Frison	
Daniel Gonzalez		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Carolyn Granato, Assistant Superintendent		
Other District Staff		
Mary Leigh Harvey, Director OSL	Rashon Dwight, HIB/Title 9 Coordinator	
Michelina Thornton, Director Parent Engagement and Federal Grants	Edwin Mendez, Director, Office of Attendance	
Tanisha Miranda, Manager Specialist	Darrell Major, Manager Specialist	
Shamere Williams, Deputy's Office	Vernon Pullins, Supervisor OSL	
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
<p>The September 18, 2023 Parent Engagement Student Life Committee Meeting commenced at 5:30pm by Committee Chairperson Dawn Haynes.</p> <p><u>Parent Engagement</u></p> <p>Director Michelina Thornton provided the committee with the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Liaisons engaged in full-day professional development on August 30th. • Professional development topics included: defining parent engagement; strategies to best support school initiatives and promote student achievement; organization and understanding Title I requirements. • The professional development strengthened culture and climate by engaging in building rapport within teams and sharing best practices. • Parent Engagement Instructional Specialists worked with their schools to develop an understanding of coaching and planning for next steps that will support their School Action Plans that align with their school SMART Goals. <p><i>Committee Chair Haynes asked if a few of the goals and action plans regarding parent engagement could be shared with the committee.</i></p>		

On Monday, August 28, 2023, the Office of Federal Programs and Grants, in partnership with community-based organizations, hosted a backpack drive to provide students and families with backpacks, notebooks, books, pencils, crayons, and more to kick off the school year on the right foot

Parent University was introduced and Fall 2023 dates were shared as follows:

- **Fall 2023:** The district is offering 16 virtual workshops via Webex on Tuesdays & Wednesdays through December.
- **Tuesday, September 12th:** “Creating Home Environments that Support Learning” by Dr. Patrice Fenton of Educate LLC
 - Watch parties are being hosted at First Avenue, Lincoln & Science Park for families to attend
- **Instagram** - Follow @newarkparents for more information about sessions

Director Thornton asked everyone to save the date of Wednesday, November 8, 2023 for the 37th Annual Title 1 Parent Conference. The conference will be held at the Robert Treat Hotel.

HIB

Rashon Dwight, District HIB/ Title 9 provided the committee with the following actions regarding Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying:

- All Anti-Bullying Specialists attended a training to continue knowledge and understanding of NJ HIB Law
- HIB training was provided for all School Administrators and School Support Staff
- Anti-Bullying Specialist were given updated NJDOE documentation

Office of Student Life

Director Mary Leigh Harvey provided the committee with the following updates:

- On **Tuesday, September 19, 2023** at Science Park High School, the Office of Student Life has partnered with NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to offer a Parent workshop focused on the *New FAFSA* requirements
- On **Wednesday, September 20, 2023** at Central High School, the Office of Student Life has partnered with NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to offer a Parent workshop focused on the **NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application** for *NJ Dreamers*
- On **Monday, September 25, 2023** at University High School, the Office of Student Life will present in partnership with NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority a Parent Workshop on the *New FAFSA* requirements
- The new SchooLinks platform was rolled out to school counselors on September 15, 2023, in which they will begin rolling the platform out to parents and students. This platform will assist students in College and Career Readiness geared specifically for middle and high school students.
- In honor of Red Ribbon Week, a Health and Wellness Fair will take place at Newark Vocational High School on October 25, 2023 at 3:30pm. This fair is in collaboration with our community partner Greater Essex Counseling.

- Charmaine Rudd- Sanders represented the Office of Student Life as the Governor's Educator of the Year. She was awarded the **NJ Freedom Award**, for the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

Attendance:

Director Edwin Mendez introduced Program Specialist, Tanisha Miranda to present on the Communities In Schools partnership.

- Communities in Schools aims to provide integrated student supports to meet students' needs, improve graduation rates and, ultimately economic mobility.
- Attendance Counselors will continue to provide intentional support to students and encourage regular attendance, thereby enhancing their academic and personal achievements.
- Under the guidance of the Office of Attendance, Attendance Counselors will establish significant connections with scholars and families who are experiencing difficulties to break the barriers impacting chronic absenteeism.

PESL Committee Chairperson, Dawn Haynes adjourned the meeting at 6:31pm