



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Board Business Meeting Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Board Vice President Vereliz Santana convened the meeting at 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:**

Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Santana

Ms. Norton arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Ms. Haynes arrived at 6:15 p.m.

#### **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. **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance Committee Report – Mr. Council**

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

1. Long Range Facilities Plan
2. The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan Update
3. Financial Reports
4. Contracts

**Program and Instruction Committee Report - Ms. Murray-Thomas**

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

1. Long Range Facilities Plan
2. Student Achievement Data and Improvement Strategies
3. The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan Updates
4. Resolutions

Board members' questions were answered by Ms. Murray-Thomas.

**Operations Committee Report - Ms. Garcia**

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

1. Policy, Planning, Evaluation & Testing
2. Food & Nutrition
3. Security
4. Transportation
5. Facilities

**Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee Report – Ms. Anderson**

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

1. The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan Updates
2. Student Life Updates
3. Elementary and Middle School Guidance
4. Homeless and Displaced Students
5. Project Prevent Schools
6. Parent Engagement Update

**Personnel Committee Report – Ms. Johnson**

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

1. Staffing
2. Personnel Actions
3. Voting Items
4. Resolutions
5. Non-Voting Items
6. Recruitment

**Governance Committee Report - Ms. Haynes**

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

1. COVID 19 Update
2. Board Retreat
3. Proposed Resolutions: Equity, Formation of Affirmative Action Team, English Language Learners, and COVID Data Dashboard
4. Update Charter School Renewals, Leases, and Expansions

5. Long Range Facilities Plan
6. NHA - Dayton Street School Proposed Redevelopment

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve the committee reports. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Mr. Council	
<b>Yeas</b>	Ms. Anderson Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.	<b>9</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	None	<b>0</b>

**Motion carried.**

**V. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent León reported to the Board of Education on the following:

- COVID-19 Update
- Safe Return Plan 2021-2022
- ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III
- Newark Enrolls
- The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan Update
- Parent University Spring 2022
- Equity Fellows
- Latino Men Rising Coalition
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Women's Leadership Conference
- Timeline for Budget: FY 2022-23

Dr. Marguerite Leuze, Executive Director of Health Services, presented Let's have the Conversation: Covid-19

- NBOE COVID-19 -Data Dashboard
- Safe Return Plan 2021-2022
- Variants: COVID-19
- Historical Perspective of COVID-19
- Testing and Vaccinations
- Keeping Students and Staff Safe
- Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine
- Travel Guidance
- Resources: CDC COVID-19 Information

Ms. Rochanda Jackson, Director of Policy, Planning: Evaluation, And Testing, presented the attendance report.

Board Members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

**VI. Public Participation**

Ms. Liss reviewed the guidelines for public participation. The comments of the following speaker can be found on the Newark Board of Education's website under Board Meeting video archives:

Denise Cole, and David Daughety

**VII. Review Agenda for Public Meeting**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve the agenda for the public meeting as modified to include the addition of a resolution regarding English Language learners. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Santana	
<b>Yeas</b>	Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, and Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.	<b>9</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	None	<b>0</b>

**Motion carried.**

**VIII. Board Resolution**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Murray-Thomas, to approve item 8.1, Resolution Regarding Establishment of an Equity Policy Ad Hoc Committee. After discussion, the motion carried.


<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Murray-Thomas	
<b>Roll call vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas</b>	Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes.	<b>9</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	None	<b>0</b>

**IX. Adjournment**

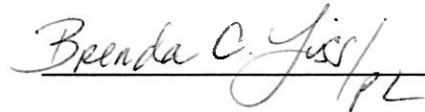
Ms. Norton moved, seconded by Mr. Council, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

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

Submitted by:  
Renee Martinez, Board Relations

  
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Reviewed by:  
Brenda C. Liss, General Counsel

  
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**Resolved, that the Minutes of the Board Business Meeting of the Newark Board of Education, Tuesday, January 25, 2022, be and are hereby adopted.**

Approved by:  
Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

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