



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Board Operations Committee Meeting
Josephine C. Garcia, Chairperson
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
5:30 pm

Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	March 22, 2023	5:30pm
Board Members		
Josephine Garcia	Hasani Council	
Flohisha Johnson	Dawn Hayne	
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Valerie Wilson	Dr. Shakirah Harrington	
Krystle Whitlock	Havier Nazario	
Other District Staff		
Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Abdullah Ansari	
Levi Holmes		
Anthony Jackson		
Hasan Bullock		
Rodney Williams		
Benjamin Olagadeyo		
Carlos Edmundo		
Elayier Pickett		
Vincent Hutchinson		
Haben Mengistu		
Guests		
Meeting Summary		
Meeting called to order by myself at 5:35 pm		
<u>The Office of Pupil Transportation</u>		
The Office of Pupil Transportation was featured in the March 2023 edition of School Transportation News, a national publication. In this article, Executive Director, Quanika Dukes-Spruill discussed the innovative routing strategies that NBOE adopted during the height of the school bus driver shortage in		

2021. These routing approaches are still in effect this school year. We applaud the Office of Pupil Transportation for their public recognition of pioneering routing strategies!

The Office of Safety and Security

The Office of Safety and Security is dedicated to provide a safe, secure, and orderly environment for all students, staff and community. A key part of the department's strategy to enhance student and staff safety is the review of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reports. In order to respond to the incidents reported through SSDS and other outlets; ongoing comprehensive training of all security staff is beneficial. All security guards received training in the following areas:

- Bag Scanner
- Active Shooter
- Customer Service
- Uniform Inspection
- District Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Attendance
- Handle with Care

Office of Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology presented its plan to replace the legacy surveillance system with a next generation surveillance platform that will transform future proof school safety. The need of a new camera surveillance system was due to the current system being outdated, inefficient and have various limitations such as:

- No remote accessibility
- Storage limitation
- Integration
- Programming and access to law enforcement

In addition, the district has a large number of school areas without surveillance coverage. The new surveillance system will provide many benefits including:

- Higher quality image
- Live feed transmitting through ethernet cords into Internet Protocol (IP) address
- Artificial Intelligence cameras that can be programmed to provide alerts and notifications of any image distinctions
- Assistance for security and law enforcement with investigation processes as well as prevention of any incidents

The district plans to install over 7,000 new cameras as part of this initiative in order to cover all school areas. The initiative will be funded through local funds, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds after going through a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Facilities

Facilities presented the following Memorandum of Understandings (MOU):

- MOU amendment for donation of Greenhouse and planter beds for educational purposes from Trust for Public Land (TPL) to Louise A. Spencer School.
- MOU approval Alezandra's playground donation of equipment and installation. The district will be installing a rubberized play surfacing and fence in the playground to Ivy Hill School.
- MOU approval for donation from TPL for playground equipment and installation at Luis Munoz Marin Elementary School

- MOU for donation from Arizona State University of a Verizon Innovative Learning Lab at Hawthorne Ave. School.

The district is committing \$100,000 to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to donation of a playground and installation at Lincoln Elementary. TPL has raised funds towards this project.

The district has agreed to a land swap with 242 Broadway LLC at 230 Broadway near Marion A. Bolden Student Center. This land swap does not impact the square footage usage at the student center. NBOE is 1 of 200 schools out of 3,000 applicants eligible to go to the next application phase to receive the Renew America School Federal Grant for HVAC projects. This grant is approximately \$11 million dollars. Facilities is working with Johnson Controls and The Department of Grants to submit the remaining documentation for the grant application before April 21st deadline.

Award of contracts for field and track renovations at Malcom X. Shabazz Field and Untermann Field are being presented to the board for approval. The renovations will be beginning in April and will be completed by start of football season, August 2023.

NBOE has been recognized by the United States Green Building Council as 1 of 2 districts in the country to receive the 2023 Best Green Schools Award. The district received this award due to all schools being certified in sustainability as well as green initiatives in the past year.

Mount Vernon, Hawkins Street, & Ridge Early Childhood Center (ECC) are the three schools where projects have been identified utilizing the New Jersey School Development Authority 2023 Capital and Emergent Construction Project Grant, totaling \$7.2 million dollars. Projects include restorations, masonry repairs and roof replacements.

Contactless water fountain installation update. Outside vendors and in-house trades are continuing the installation. Facilities is looking to find an additional vendor to expedite the process. The Operations Committee requested a timeline for the water fountain installations and proposed completion date. Information will be provided by the Facilities team.

An update was provided regarding summer projects. Facilities renovations include George Washington Carver 2nd floor, 3rd floor at Fashion and Design, and Data Science & Information Technology's basement and classrooms. Facilities is currently identifying additional projects i.e. gym floor replacements, painting of classrooms and corridors, roof replacements, etc.

Miscellaneous

The committee was provided an update by SBA Wilson on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) spending. She highlighted the grants' expiration dates, items/initiatives being supported with the funds, and the importance in the coordination of all funds.

On March 16th the district had its New Jersey Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) visit done by Essex County Superintendent of schools, Joseph Zarra and his team. Majority of the categories for review had been completed and additional documentation is not required from the district at this time. School site visits are scheduled for mid-April. Results of the NJQSAC review will be available potentially at the end of the school year or during the summer.

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	6:40 PM by Josephine Garcia
Minutes Submitted By	<i>Haben Mengistu</i>

Item: Security	
Lead(s): Levi Holmes & Abdullah Ansari	Priority/Strategy 1:1.3,1.5, 1.7, 5.4

Comments: Office of Safety Partnership and School Safety Data System Update

School Safety Data System (SSDS): Maintaining monthly reports of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reported incidents for every school in the district. There was a slight increase of overall reported incidents in the month of February (22-23 SY), compared to that of January (22-23 SY). This trend is consistent from last year.

Office of Safety News Letter: Approximately 90% of security guards are trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). In addition, approximately 97% of the guards are trained in Incident Command Systems (ICS)100 & 700 which are training for incident command on handling active shooting. Finally, there is a partnership with law enforcement where they will try to identify where and what stores students obtain the paraphilia and have that establishment closed.

Migration and expansion of new surveillance system: The new surveillance system has additional benefits. It can be programmed to only record at certain times of the day such as when human presence is noticed or when a vehicle appears. In addition, it can be set up to work with security cameras and sensors to notice the presence of things such as guns, chemicals in vape pens, as well as set up to hear or react to the sound of a gun, glass breakage, human screaming and etc. Also, it has the potential to expand the new security surveillance into the school busses and integrate it where it can easily track and monitor school busses.

Item: Facilities	
Lead(s): Carlos Edmundo, Rodney Williams	Priority/Strategy: 1:1.5

Comments: Newark Board of Education Facilities Update

Donation (MOU) from Alexandra Playground - Ivy Hill: This work is slated is expected to be completed in June and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Verizon Innovation Learning Lab MOU for Hawthorne Ave. School: This will be the third school with a Verizon Innovation Learning Lab, the other two are Hawkins Street School and Dr. William H. Horton School.

Water Update – Contactless Fountains and Repair: Facilities Executive Director Carlos Edmundo refuted concerns of no functioning drinking water by stating they have checked all the schools to make sure all of fountains are currently functioning or not. For those fountains that are not working, it is on schedule to be repaired and/or replaced.

Item: Miscellaneous	
Lead(s): Valerie Wilson	Priority/Strategy:1:1.2

Comments: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) II and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Analysis Updates

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) Update: The District received approximately 84 million dollars of ESSER II funds. As of February 2023, the District has expensed approximately 74.29% of the funds, 86.31% are tied to requisitions and Purchase Orders (P.O.'s). Once ESSER II funds have been used, request and approval for (ARP) funds for projects planned for student instruction and activities in the District. The District has until September of 2023 to utilize ESSER II funds.

ESSER III/American Rescue Plan Update: As of February 2023, the District was awarded 182 million dollars, 27.61 % of funds have been tied to requisitions and Purchase Orders (P.O.'s) and only 14.38% was expensed. The majority of the departments are still currently utilizing their ESSER II funds. The District has until September of 2024 to utilize ARP funds.

The meeting was adjourned by Board Member Garcia at 6:40 pm.