



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Monday, October 30, 2023

President Council convened the meeting at 6:06p.m. The meeting was held at Oliver Street School, 86 Oliver Street, Newark, NJ 07105 with video access provided to members of the Board and the public.

I. Call to Order (Reading of Statement) Ms. Valerie Wilson

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 and Luso Americano 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 this meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

II. Flag Salute

III. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Garcia, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council

Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Santana arrived at 6:14pm.

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Murray-Thomas

Administrative Staff:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent
Ms. Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary
Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel
Ms. Nancy Deering, Director of Board Relations

IV. Greetings from Principal

Principal Luis Henriques welcomed the Board, the Superintendent and the public to Oliver Street School. The principal shared there are currently 1,042 students enrolled from pre K3 through eighth grade and 403 of those students are in the bilingual and 121 in RCI programs. A video was presented showcasing the school and programs offered. Also, students from the third-grade chorus performed.

V. Swearing in of Newly Elected Student Representative

Malachi Gwyn, of Arts High School was sworn in as the new Student Representative.

VI. Recognitions

Superintendent León recognized the following students:

- Peshine Avenue Student Media Center
- Malcolm X Shabazz High School Marching Band
- 41st Annual New Jersey Black Issues Convention
- Newark School of Fashion & Design - Black Coat Ceremony
- 6th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
- 311 Carpentry Program
- College Board National Recognition Programs
- Schools That Can
- Teen Entrepreneurship Program
- USA Football Heart of a Giant Award Nominee
- NJSIAA State Qualifiers Football
- NJSIAA State Qualifiers Boys Soccer
- NJSIAA State Qualifiers Girls Soccer
- NJSIAA State Qualifiers Girls Volleyball
- Super Essex Conference Livery Division Champions
- Super Essex Conference Colonial Division Boys and Girls Cross Country Champions
- NBOE Girls Cross Country Tournament Champions
- NBOE Boys Cross Country Tournament Champions
- NBOE Boys Soccer Tournament Champions
- Girls Volleyball Tournament Champions
- NJGPA 2022-23 English Language Arts Perfect Score – High School
- NJGPA 2022-23 English Language Arts Perfect Score – Elementary
- NJGPA 2022-23 Mathematics Perfect Score
- NJGPA 2022-23
- School Board Student Representative Election

VII. Committee Chairperson's Report

Board Operations – Ms. Garcia

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

- Pupil Transportation
- Food and Nutrition
- Safety and Security
- Facilities Management

Finance & Operations – Mr. Gonzalez

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

- Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grant
- Project Prevent Newark Grant
- Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation Grant
- Novartis Newark Data Science Acceleration Fund

Ms. Wilson answered board member questions.

Instruction & Programs – Ms. Santana

Ms. Santana reported that the following items were discussed at the Instruction & Programs meeting:

- Committee Goals
- District's Core Values

Parent Engagement & Student Life – Ms. Haynes

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

- Committee Goals
- Annual Title I Parent Conference
- HIB
- Office of Student Life

Personnel – Mr. Council

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

- Staffing Updates
- Recruitment and Retention
- Fairs
- Benefits

Ad Hoc Legal – Ms. Santana

Ms. Santana reported that the following items were discussed at the Ad Hoc Legal Committee meeting:

- Committee Goals
- Resolution Authorizing Offer of Judgement
- Latino Action Network et al. v. State of New Jersey

Board Development and Governance Committee – Ms. Santana

Ms. Santana reported that the following items were discussed at the Board Development and Governance Committee meetings:

- Committee Goals
- Debrief Board Retreat
- Board Vacancy
- Board Policy 2131

VIII. Approval of Committee Reports

There was motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the Committee Minutes.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Williams

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7

Nays: None 0

Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried by roll call vote.

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting on September 12, 2023, Business Meeting on September 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting on September 28, 2023, and the Board Retreat Meeting on September 30, 2023.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Haynes

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7

Nays: None 0

Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried by roll call vote.

IX. Board President's Report

President Council reported on the following:

- Welcomed new Student Representative Malachi Gwyn
- September Board Retreat meeting and solidifying committee goals
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Red Ribbon Week Health
- Wellness Fair
- Council of Great City School

X. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following:

- Attendance: September 2023
- Newark Enrolls
- ESSER II

XI. Public Participation

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

Neury Trinidad, Yvette Jordon, Donna Jackson, Che Colter

XII. Finance & Operations

There was motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to approve Finance & Operations items 12.1 – 12.30.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Williams
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: None 0
Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried by roll call vote.

XIII. Personnel Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to approve Personnel items 14-1 – 14.13.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. James-Frison
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: None 0
Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried by roll call vote.

XIV. General Counsel – Legal – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to approve Legal items 16.1 – 16.4.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Mr. Gonzalez
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: None 0
Abstentions: None 0

XV. Instruction & Programs – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Instruction and Programs items 18.1- 18.19.

Moved: Ms. Haynes
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: None 0
Abstentions: None 0

XVI. Executive Session

There was a motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved: Ms. Santana
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: None 0
Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:07pm.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE ATTACHED.

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to reconvene in open session. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved: Ms. Haynes
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana, Ms. James-Frison,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7
Nays: None 0
Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried.

There was a motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to fill the vacant board seat with Mr. Thomas Luna.

Moved: Ms. Haynes

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana, Ms. James-Frison,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7

Nays: None 0

Abstentions: None 0

Motion carried.

XVII. Adjournment

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Garcia to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Ms. Haynes

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Voice vote:

Yeas: Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council 7

Nays: None 0

Abstentions: None 0

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 pm.

Submitted by:

La Shon Blake, Board Relations

Reviewed by:

Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent