



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, August 24, 2023

President Norton convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was held at Newark Board of Education, 765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07112 with audio and 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, 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 this meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

**II. Flag Salute**

**III. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton.

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Council

Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Haynes arrived at 6:07pm.

Ms. Garcia arrived at 6:08pm.

**Administrative Staff President:**

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

Ms. Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel

Ms. Nancy Deering, Director of Board Relations

**IV. Recognitions**

Superintendent León recognized the following students:

- Elementary Basketball Championships
  - Quitman Street School – Girls
  - Speedway HS – Boys
- Elementary Cheer Competition
  - Avon Avenue School
    - First Place, Gold Division Upper
  - Luis Munoz Marin,
    - First Place, Silver Division Upper
  - Thirteenth Avenue School

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- First Place
  - Silver Division Lower
- Middle School Track Festival
  - Ann Street School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
  - Peshine Avenue School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
  - Speedway, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts Education
  - State Champions in Policy Debate
    - Victoria Rengel
    - Ashley Lourenco
- National Speech and Debate Association National Championships
  - High School Prose Reading
    - Ayomide Adekoya, Semi-Finalist
    - Deborah Edohwokui, Quarter-Finalist
    - Miriam Divo, Quarter-Finalist
    - Samuel Thomas, Octo-Finalist
  - High School Poetry Reading
    - Edwin Granados, Octo-Finalist
  - Middle School Prose Reading
    - Cidell Torto, Semi-Finalist
    - Lucas Saldana, Semi-Finalist
  - Middle School Policy Debate
    - Cidell Torto, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speaker
    - Lucas Saldana, 6<sup>th</sup> Place Speaker
- Elite 8 City-Wide Debate Championships
  - Park Elementary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
  - Dr. William H. Horton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
  - Science Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Math Olympics
  - Geometry Competition
    - Science Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
    - East Side, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
    - Bard Early College, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
  - Algebra 2 Competition
    - Science Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
    - Technology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
    - Data Science of Information Technology, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
  - Pre-calculus Competition
    - Science Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
    - East Side, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
    - Technology, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
  - Calculus Competition
    - Barringer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
    - Science Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
    - East Side, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Stem Week
- State and Global Seal of Bi-literacy

- Science Park
- East Side
- John F. Kennedy
- American History
- Arts
- Technology Student Association National Championships
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Animatronics
    - Michael Guaman
    - Morgan Padilla
- College Board National Program
  - Cesar De Los Santos
- Forbes Recognizes
  - NPS and Newark School of Fashion & Design
- FCCLA National Finalist
  - Khaye Roberston, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Data Analytics Google Professional Certificates
  - Shamar Richards
- Project Management Google Professional Certificates
  - Lanajah Womack
- 2024 Supply Chain Management Education Partnership Program
- Summer Programs 2023
- Interns

**V. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion made by Ms. Norton, seconded by Ms. Garcia to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on June 20, 2023.

**Moved:** Ms. Norton

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas:** Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton 8

**Nays:** None 0

**Abstentions:** None 0

Motion carried by roll call vote.

**VI. Board President's Report**

President Norton reported on the following:

- Annual Board Calendar
- September Board Retreat
- Filing A Vacancy on the Board of Education
- Newark Board of Education Policy

**VII. Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following:

- Elementary Summer Programs 2023
- Attendance: SY 2022-23
- Student Achievement: SY2022-23
  - NJSLA
  - NJGPA
  - MAP
  - College Pathway Assessments
- School Culture & Student Wellness
- Graduation Rate & Post-Secondary Outcomes
- Newark Enrolls
  - Application window opens - November 4
  - Application window closes - February 2
  - Match Letters Released - April 18
- Registration Forms in School Mint
- November 4 All Schools Fair
- Enrolls Audition - November to January
  - Arts HS
  - Barringer HS
  - East Side HS

Ms. Jackson presented the Year in Review – SY22/23 Key Metric.

Board members' questions were answered by Superintendent León.

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Murray-Thomas, to amend the agenda by moving agenda item 8.0 and 18.0 to 6.0.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes

**Seconded:** Ms. Murray-Thomas

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas:** Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Murray-Thomas, and Ms. Williams 4

**Nays:** Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Santana and Ms. Norton 4

**Abstentions:** 0

Motion was denied.

**VIII. 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:

Kathleen Witcher, Cassandra Dock and Che Colter

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Williams, add the Creed Report to the Executive Session.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes  
**Seconded:** Ms. Williams  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas:** Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Murray-Thomas, and Ms. Williams 4  
**Nays:** Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Santana and Ms. Norton 4  
**Abstentions:** 0

Motion was denied.

**IX. Board Resolutions**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve Board Resolutions items 9.1 - 9.2.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia  
**Seconded:** Ms. Norton  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas:** Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton 8  
**Nays:** 0  
**Abstentions:** 0

Motion Carried.

**X. Finance & Operations - Votes**

There was a motion made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Finance & Operations items 10.1 – 10.62.

**Moved:** Mr. Gonzalez  
**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia  
**Roll call vote:**  
**Yeas:** Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton 8  
**Nays:**  
**Abstentions:** Ms. Garcia, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton 7\*

\* Ms. Garcia, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton each abstained as to the portion of Item 10.21 pertaining to themselves.

Motion Carried.

**XI. Personnel – Votes**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve Personnel items 12.1- 12.14.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Norton	
<b>Roll call vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas:</b>	Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton	8
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>	Ms. Norton	1*

\*Ms. Norton abstained from agenda Item 12.9.

Motion Carried.

**XII. General Counsel – Legal - Votes**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Norton, to approve General Counsel items 14.1 – 14.5.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Norton	
<b>Roll call vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas:</b>	Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton	8
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>		0

Motion Carried.

**XIII. Instruction & Programs – Votes**

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Instruction and Programs items 16.1 to 16.21.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Haynes	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Roll call vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas:</b>	Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton	8
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>	None	0

Motion Carried.

**XIV. Executive Session**

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

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Santana	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Garcia	
<b>Voice vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas:</b>	Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton	8
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>	None	0

Motion carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:59 pm.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ARE ATTACHED.

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

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Norton	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Santana	
<b>Voice vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas:</b>	Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton	5
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>	None	0

Motion carried.

**XV. Adjournment**

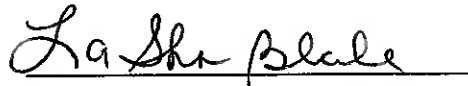
There was a motion made by Ms. Norton, seconded by Ms. Santana to adjourn the meeting.

<b>Moved:</b>	Ms. Norton	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Ms. Santana	
<b>Voice vote:</b>		
<b>Yeas:</b>	Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Santana, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Norton	5
<b>Nays:</b>	None	0
<b>Abstentions:</b>	None	0

Motion Carried.

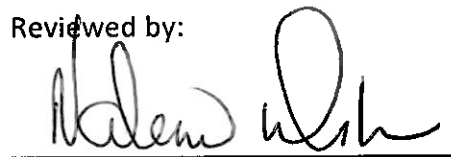
The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Submitted by:



La Shon Blake, Board Relations

Reviewed by:



Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary

Approved by:



Mr. Roger León, Superintendent