



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

## Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, December 21, 2021

President Dawn Haynes convened the meeting at approximately 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 this meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

II. **Flag Salute**

III. **Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Murray-Thomas, Ms. Norton,  
Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes.

Mr. Gonzalez arrived approximately 6:16 p.m.

**Board Members Absent:**

Ms. Flohisha Johnson

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Board Secretary

Ms. Krystle Whitlock, Assistant School Business Administrator

Ms. Nicole T. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Nancy Deering, Director of Board Relations

#### **IV. Recognitions**

Mr. León recognized the following:

- National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society inductees in all schools
- Posse Foundation Scholarship Recipients
  - American History High School
    - Brieauna Michelle Wyntur Perch – Cornell College
    - Yvoniel Jean-Jacques – Davidson College/Waitlist
    - Amanda Carolina Franco-Batista – Centre College
    - Berline Cosmeus- Centre College
  - Arts High School
    - Ingrid Cristofolletti – Davidson College
    - Stanley Barragan – Centre College
  - Bard High School Early College
    - Yashua Vallejo-Ruiz – Center College
  - Barringer High School
    - Sophia Apparicio – St. Olaf College
  - Central High School
    - Fatimoh Lawal – Centre College
    - Ayomipo Badru – St. Olaf College
  - University High School
    - Guy St. Fleur – Case Western Reserve University
  - Weequahic High School
    - Chimaka Adibe – Case Western Reserve University
    - Similoluwa Falayi – Case Western Reserve University
    - Oluwanifemi Fuwa – Case Western Reserve University
- QuestBridge Scholarship Recipients
  - Bard High School Early College
    - Aude Djifanou – Boston College
  - Science Park High School
    - Luis Guaman – Princeton University
    - Daniela Palacios – Columbia University
- New Jersey Regional Day School Named National Unified Champion School by ESPN & Special Olympics
- 2021 New York Giants “Heart of a Giant” Winner, Devian Parker-Rogers, Malcolm X Shabazz High School

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

##### **Personnel Committee – Mr. Council**

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

- Staffing
- Employee Services
- Non – Voting Items
- Personnel Actions

- Resolutions
- District Health and Wellness
- Health Benefits
- Student Support
- Recruitment

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

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

- Recap of the Next Decade 2020-2030 Quarter 1 Report
- High School Leadership Team Presentation
- Review resolutions and field trips
- Teaching and Learning newsletter

**Operations Committee - Ms. Garcia**

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

- Transportation
- Planning, Evaluating & Testing
- Security
- Facilities
- Resolutions

Board members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

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

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

- Sex Trafficking Policy
- Services for pregnant students
- 365 Academy
- Title I Conference
- Student Support Service Updates
- Grant Opportunities
- Fall 2021 FAFSA Parent Workshop
- Partnerships

**Legal Committee - Ms. Santana**

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

- New and Pending Matters
- Request for Settlement Authority

**Finance Committee – Mr. Council**

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

- October 2021 Secretary Report
- October 2021 Treasurer Report
- October 2021 Transfer Report
- Payroll Summary
- Budget Calendar 2022-2023
- Newark Board of Education Operating Account
- Resolutions
- 2021-22 PEA Preschool Early Childhood Aid Contracts
- Lease Agreements – Saint Casimir Roman Catholic Church
- District Travel
- Purchasing
- Award of Cafeteria Food Items
- Amendment Number 2 of Preventative Maintenance
- Digital Readers
- Amendment of Special Education, Bilingual and English as a Second Language Teacher Professional Development Contract 9387
- Award of Repairs to Heating Pumps
- Amendment of Vinyl Composition Tiles
- Award of Social Studies Instructional Materials
- Award of T-shirts and Golf Apparel
- Award of School Supplies
- Renewal of Professional Development
- Facilities
- Continued use of the leased facilities
- Submission of comprehensive maintenance plan
- Radio distribution agreement with Verizon at Dr. William H. Horton School

**Governance Committee - Ms. Haynes**

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

- COVID-19 Updates
- Equity Group Update
- Charter School Reports, Renewals and Leases
- Juneteenth

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve the committee meeting reports.

**Moved:** Ms. Haynes  
**Seconded:** Mr. Council  
**Yeas** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **8**  
**Nays:** None **0**

**Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion made by Mr. Council, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

**Moved:** Mr. Council  
**Seconded:** Ms. Haynes  
**Yeas:** Ms. Anderson, Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana, and Ms. Haynes. **8**  
**Nays:** None **0**

**Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**VII. Board President's Report**

President Haynes reported on the following items:

- Recognitions
- NJSBA Legislative Committee Meeting
  - STEM Opportunities for Young Women and Minorities
  - STEM Teachers Loan Redemption
  - Streamlining Facility Project Approvals
- FAFSA Workshop for Parents
- Transition to Adulthood series of workshops
- Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting
- Newark Enrolls
- Bilingual Parent Advisory Meeting
- Board Meetings

**VIII. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. León presented to the Board the following items:

- COVID-19 Update
- Safe Return Plan: 2021-2022
- The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan
- FAFSA
- Grants

Ms. Jackson presented November 2021 Attendance Data

Mr. León reported to the Board the following items:

- Budget Reviews
- Community Meetings
- Student Leadership
- Internships
- Newark Enrolls
- Black Men Rising Coalition
- Latino Men Rising Coalition

Board members' questions were answered by Mr. León.

**IX. Public Participation**

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

Deborah Smith-Gregory, Denise Cole, Kathleen Witcher, Richard Garcia, Dr. Leah Owens, Viva White, Yvette Jordan, Lourdes Pinto, Thomas Ibiang, and Tiffany Washington.

**X. Finance & Operations**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Council, to approve Finance and Operations Items 10.1 to 10.26.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia

**Seconded:** Mr. Council

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **8**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Motion carried.**

**XI. Personnel**

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve Personnel Items 11.1-11.8.

**Moved:** Ms. Garcia

**Seconded:** Ms. Santana

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **8**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Motion carried.**

**XII. Program & Instruction**

There was a motion made by Ms. Murray-Thomas, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Program & Instruction Items 12.1-12.17.

**Moved:** Ms. Murray - Thomas

**Seconded:** Ms. Garcia

**Roll call vote:**

**Yeas** Ms. Anderson Mr. Council, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Murray-Thomas,  
Ms. Norton, Ms. Santana and Ms. Haynes. **8**

**Nays:** None **0**

**Motion carried.**

**XIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Haynes moved, seconded by Ms. Norton, to adjourn. On a voice vote, all were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

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

Submitted by:

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Renee Martinez, Board Relations

Reviewed by:



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Brenda C. Liss, General Counsel

**Resolved, that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Newark Board of Education, Tuesday, December 21, 2021 be and are hereby adopted.**

Approved by:

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Mr. Roger León, Superintendent