



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, May 23, 2024

President Council convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. The meeting was held at Technology High School, 223 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104 with video access provided to members of the public.

1. Call to Order (Reading of Statement) Mr. Bernard Mercado

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.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council

Board Members Absent:

Ms. James-Frison

Administrative Staff President:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent
Mr. Bernard Mercado, Acting Board Secretary
Ms. Nancy Deering, Director, Office of Board Relations

4. Greetings from Principal

Principal Reyes welcomed the Board, Superintendent, and the public to Technology High School, home of the Panther Pride.

Principal Reyes spoke about:

- Best High Schools in America over the last 15 years
- Technology High School Received National Blue Ribbon Award Status
- Fosters a true family atmosphere for each student
- Dedicated to students' academic pursuits in addition to their social and emotional wellbeing
- Cultivates a vibrant learning environment
- Students from the Poetry club read an original poem
- Band members performed

Superintendent León presented Principal Reyes with a plaque in recognition of the school's Blue Ribbon Status, and thanked him and his staff for all the hard work they do.

5. Recognitions

Superintendent León recognized the following:

- John F. Kennedy National School of Character
- College Board National Recognition Programs
 - o National African American Recognition Program 81 students
 - o National First-Generation Recognition Program 104 students
 - o National Hispanic Recognition Program 117 students
 - o National Indigenous Recognition Program 21 students
- Newark Public Schools debate on WNYC Radio
- Tournament of Champions University of Kentucky
- 2024 National Speech and Debate Association Middle School National Debate Tournament
- NBOE is the largest Policy Debate Program in the country
- We Were Strangers Once Too: An Immigrant Memoir Collection
- Jazz House Kids
- Soccer for Success
- Newark Elementary Boys Basketball Championship 2024
 - o Avon Avenue
- Newark Elementary Girls Basketball Championship 2024
 - o Mount Vernon
- Unsung Heroes Awards Ceremony Essex County Class of 2024
- Summer Programs
 - o W.E.B DU Boise Scholars Institute at Princeton University
 - o Harvard Summer School
 - o Pratt Continuing and Professional Studies Summer Pre-College
 - o The New School Parson Youth and Pre-College
- First Robotics Competition Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship
- NJ ACT-SO Competition

6. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the minutes of the March Business Board Meeting, Executive Session Meeting and Regular Board Meeting.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Anderson

Voice vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council

8

Nays:

0

Abstentions:

0

Motion carried.

7. Board President's Report

President Council reported to the Board on the following:

- Technology HS Blue Ribbon Status
- NJSBA Board Certifications Recognition
- East Side High Varsity Girls Softball Team Championship
- Elementary Basketball Tournament Winners:
 - o Avon Avenue Elementary Board Team
 - o Mount Vernon School Girls Team
- 2nd Annual High School Redesign Partners Meeting
- Board Retreat
- Senior Appreciation Ceremony at Malcolm X Shabazz High School
- Upcoming Events:
 - o Effective Communication for Parents, May 30th
 - o 3rd Annual High School Jubilee, May 30th
 - o Night at the Museum, June 14th
 - o Board Meeting, June 18th at Sussex Avenue Elementary School

8. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following:

- Middle States Accreditation
- NJDOE ABR Assessment HIB Grades 2022-23
- School Climate Surveys
- Cornwall Institute, Rutgers Newark
- 2024 Summer Reading List
- 2024 Summer Programs
- April 2024 Attendance
- Winning the Freshman Year

9. Public Participation

Mr. Mercado 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:

- Debra Salters
- Kathleen Witcher
- Kalenah Witcher

10. Board Resolutions

There was a motion made by Ms. Santana, second by Ms. Garcia, to approve the Board Resolutions items 10.1 – 10.2.

Moved: Ms. Santana

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas,
Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council

7

Nays:

0

Abstentions: Ms. Haynes **1**

Motion Carried.

11. Finance & Operations - Votes

There was a motion made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Finance & Operations items 11.2 – 11.77.

Moved: Mr. Gonzalez

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council **8***

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Ms. Anderson recused herself from agenda item 11.25. *

Motion Carried.

12. Personnel – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Vinhas, to approve Personnel items 13.2 – 13.16.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. Vinhas

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council **8**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

13. Instruction & Programs – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Instruction & Programs items 15.2 – 15.12.

Moved: Ms. Anderson

Seconded: Ms. Garcia

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council **8**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

14. Adjournment

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

Moved: Ms. Haynes

Seconded: Ms. Williams

Voice vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Haynes, Ms. Santana,
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council

8

Nays:

0

Abstentions:

0

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by:

Ms. La Shon Blake, Office of Board Relations

Reviewed by:

Mr. Bernard Mercado, Acting Board Secretary

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent