



Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Operations Committee Report

Location	Date	Time
Virtual	May 14, 2025	5:30 p.m.
Board Members		
President Hasani Council	Louis Maisonave, Jr.	
Josephine Garcia		
District Liaison & Superintendent Representative		
Dr. Jose Fuentes	Krystle Whitlock	
Dr. Yolanda Severe	Valerie Wilson	
Other District Staff		
Hasan Bullock	Benjamin Olagadeyo	
Christopher Caponegro	Da Vonne Salley	
Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Audra Tamayo	
Carlos Edmundo	Wali Thomas	
Levi Holmes		
Dr. Tonya McGill		
Guests		
Agenda Topics		

Item: Pupil Transportation Update		
Lead(s): Quanika Dukes-Spruill	Priority/Strategy: Priority 1/Strategy 1.1	

Comments: Significant developments in student transportation were presented, highlighting the district's commitment to improving accessibility for all students. Notably, bus services have expanded to accommodate an additional 1,339 students compared to the previous school year. In addition, public transportation eligibility has increased, providing access for 3,230 more students.

The committee also reviewed cost-saving initiatives implemented by the district's omnibus operators, highlighting their effectiveness in managing resources while maintaining high-quality service. Plans were also discussed for introducing a new electric school bus in the upcoming school year, reflecting the district's dedication to sustainability and innovation in student transportation.

A resolution for a Joint Transportation Agreement between Ewing Public Schools and the district. The resolution was approved to move forward to the full board for a vote.

Item: Food Services Update		
Lead(s): Audra Tamayo	Priority/Strategy: Priority 1/Strategy 1.1	

Comments: A recap of the Summer EBT program was presented to the committee. This initiative provides low-income families with a one-time EBT card valued at \$120 per child, which is mailed to the address on file with each student's school.

The committee was also updated on the Summer Food Service Program, which is currently underway. The application has been submitted and approved, the menu has received state approval, and hiring efforts are ongoing. Operations training is scheduled for May 21.

An update was then provided on the district's partnership with Chef Brigaid, emphasizing the valuable resources and support they bring to the food service program. The discussion also addressed overall food quality across the district. The committee was informed that collaboration among kitchen staff, supervisors, and Chef Brigaid ensures recipe consistency, proper food preparation, effective kitchen management, and incorporation of student feedback.

Key compliance items were reviewed, including the recent Administrative Review and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) audit. The FFVP audit was successfully completed with no corrective actions required. While the Administrative Review identified some areas for improvement, a Corrective Action Plan is being developed and will be presented to the committee next month. Applications for next year's FFVP participation are due next Friday, with submission to the state by the end of the month.

Additionally, the committee was informed about procedures in place to accommodate students with food allergies or medical conditions that prevent them from consuming standard lunch offerings. The department is also reviewing vendor delivery schedules to help alleviate congestion issues that have been identified.

Item: Safety & Security Update	
Lead(s): Levi Holmes & Hasan Bullock	Priority/Strategy: Priority 1/Strategy 1.3 & 1.5

Comments: A summary of the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) reports for March and April 2025 was presented, including a comparison with data from the previous academic year. The presentation highlighted key trends and identified areas for improvement. It was also noted that the Handle with Care training, conducted by the Office of Safety and Security, equips staff with techniques to safely and appropriately restrain students in distress, helping prevent harm to themselves or others. In addition, the presentation emphasized the importance of district-wide partnerships, prevention efforts, and strategies aimed at addressing and reducing negative student behaviors.

Item: Facilities Update	
Lead(s): Carlos Edmundo & Wali Thomas	Priority/Strategy: Priority 1/Strategy 1.5

Comments: An overview was provided of the boiler cleaning process in preparation for the State inspection, along with a visual presentation of the school's dibond and LED signage. Additionally, custodial staff are currently receiving training on important topics including Right to Know, AHERA, landscaping, electrical static, and custodial cleaning duties. An update was also given on the progress of hiring additional custodial staff.

A list of summer projects was shared, including playground and sidewalk repairs at various schools across the district, pending approval. Part of the project scope will include repairs to the flags displayed at district schools. Additionally, the timeline for the resolution of the award for turf replacement at the school stadium was discussed and will be brought before the Operations Committee.

Further information was provided regarding the rationale for the resolution concerning Change Order #1 for roof replacement and masonry restoration at South 17th Street School, along with an overview of the procedure and timeline for the award of improvements to the field house and concession stand at Untermann Field. An update was also given on the completion status of water fountain installations and the ongoing lead water testing district wide.

Item: Miscellaneous	
Lead(s): Valerie Wilson	Priority/Strategy: Priority 1/Strategy 1.5

Comments: The committee received an update on the School of Architecture & Interior Design, including a discussion of the proposed terms for the final amendment and the project timeline. A walkthrough of the school is scheduled for a day during the week of May 19th. Questions from the committee were also addressed.

The committee agreed to move all items forward for the full Board's approval.

The meeting was adjourned at: 7:18 p.m.