



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, June 18, 2024

President Council convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was held at Sussex Avenue School, 307 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07107 with video access provided to members of the public.

1. 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.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams, Mr. Council. Ms. Anderson arrived at 6:14pm

Board Members Absent:

Dawn Haynes

Administrative Staff President:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent
Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Acting Board Secretary
Ms. Nancy Deering, Director, Office of Board Relations

4. Greetings from Principal

Principal Johnson welcomed the Board, Superintendent, and the community to Sussex Avenue School. Class officers presented Superintendent León with a token of an appreciation, and performances were presented by the Middle School Band and Juneteenth Dancers.

5. Recognitions

Superintendent León recognized the Class of 2024. He noted that approximately 500 students with GPA 3.5 or higher were honored on Academic Awards Night, members of the Class of 2024 have earned over \$160 million in college scholarships, 178 students have earned Associates Degrees, one student at each high school has been named an NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete, and 262 seniors received the State of Seal of Biliteracy.

6. Committee Chairperson's Reports

Instruction & Program Committee – Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson reported that the following items were discussed at the Instruction & Program Committee meeting:

- Office of Policy, Planning, Evaluation and Testing (OPPET) Overview presentation
 - o Academic Data and Strategic Analytics, State and District Assessments, Unified Enrollment, Student Information Systems, Family Support and Reengagement Center
- School Year 2024-2025 Research Agenda
 - o Curriculum Revisions in ELA, Math, and Science
 - o Extended Learning (Afterschool, Tutoring, Saturday School, Summer School)
 - o Revision of School Feeder Patterns
 - o Current ELL English Language Trajectory
 - o Conception to Cradle to Age 3
- Newark Enrolls SY 2024-25
- Family Support and Reengagement Center
- Summer Programs

Personnel Committee – Ms. Vinhas

Ms. Vinhas reported that the following items were discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting:

- Staffing
- Vacancies
- Appointments, Co-curricular Activities, Transfers, Increment Withholdings, Cost of Living Salary Increases, Abolishment of Titles
- Resignations & Retirement
- Separations
- NTU Contract
- Donaldson Hearings
- Tenure Charges
- Benefits
- Negotiations
- Recruitments

Parent Engagement & Student Life Committee– Ms. James-Frison

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

- Attendance
- HIB/Title 9
- Title I Annual School Plans
- Back to School Events
- Vulcans Jr. Firefighters' Pipeline Initiative
- CARA
- NJ LEEP
- McKinney Vento
- Truancy

Finance Committee – Mr. Gonzalez

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

- Bond Referendum
- Quarterly Forecast
- ARP/ESSER Funds
- Purchasing Items

Operations Committee – Ms. Garcia

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

- Food Services
- Pupil Transportation
- Student Safety Data System (SSDS)
- Training in Behavioral Threat Assessment, CPR/AED/ Narcan Training, Stop the Bleed, Customer Service, Active Shooter/Emergency Response, De-Escalation, Harassment and Bullying, New Camera System, and 911 Dispatcher Training
- Contactless water fountains
- Green Infrastructure Program

Governance Committee – Mr. Council

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

- Electronic School Board (ESB)
- Facilities
- School Leadership Councils
- New Jersey School Boards Association Policy Wellness Check
- Bard Early College High School

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to approve the Committee Reports. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved:	Ms. Garcia	
Seconded:	Ms. James-Frison	
Voice vote:		
Yeas:	Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Council	8
Nays:		0
Abstention:		0

Motion carried.

7. Approval of Minutes

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

Moved:	Ms. Anderson
Seconded:	Ms. Garcia

Voice vote:

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

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion carried.

8. Board President's Report

President Council reported to the Board on the following:

- Sign up for Spotlight newsletter
- 2nd Annual Mental Health Awareness Conference
- Elementary Cheer Competition and Basketball Tournament
- Equity Workshop
- Student Business Center at West Side High School
- Seal of Biliteracy
- NJPAC RAMP Concert
- Principal for A Day
- High School Senior Thesis Project
- City-wide Middle School Debate
- Academic Awards Ceremony
- 2024 Teacher of the Year
- Fun Day
- Senior Day
- Summer Programming

9. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following:

- Attendance
- Quarterly Financial Report
- Summer Programs 2024
- Summer Reading List 2024
- High School Orientation
- First Day of School September 3, 2024
- Principal for a Day
- Congratulations to the Class of 2024

10. Public Participation

Ms. Liss 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:

- Matthew Madonna
- Latoya Jackson Tucker
- Derrick Law
- Hector Corchado
- Denise Cole

- Kathleen Witcher
- Nadirah Brown
- Cassandra Dock
- Donna Jackson
- Lyndon Brown
- Loucious Jones

A motion was made by Ms. Santana, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the Board Resolution agenda item 11.1.

Moved: Ms. Santana

Seconded: Ms. Anderson

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

11. Finance & Operations - Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Gonzalez, to approve Finance & Operations items 12.2 – 12.62.

Moved: Mr. Garcia

Seconded: Mr. Gonzalez

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: Ms. Williams* **1***

Abstentions: Ms. Garcia and Mr. Council* **2***

*Ms. Garcia and Mr. Council abstained on Item 13.1.

*Ms. Williams abstained on Items 13.2 and 13.4.

*Ms. Williams voted no on Item 13.3.

Motion Carried.

12. Personnel – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to approve Personnel items 14.2 – 14.17.

Moved: Ms. Garcia

Seconded: Ms. James-Frison

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: Ms. Anderson and Mr. Council* **2***

*Ms. Anderson and Mr. Council abstained on Item 15.1.

Motion Carried.

13. Instruction & Programs – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Garcia, to approve Instruction & Programs items 16.2 – 16.8.

Moved: Ms. Anderson
Seconded: Ms. Garcia
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council **8**
Nays: **0**
Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

14. Executive Session

There was a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Ms. Vinhas, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and matters within the attorney-client-privilege. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Vinhas
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council **8**
Nays: **0**
Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Executive Session are attached.

15. Reconvene

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

Moved: Ms. Garcia
Seconded: Ms. Vinhas
Voice vote:
Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana
Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams and Mr. Council **8**
Nays: **0**
Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

The board reconvened in open session at 11:42 p.m.

16. Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Williams.

Moved: Mr. Gonzalez

Seconded: Ms. Williams

Voice vote:

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

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 pm.

Submitted by:

Ms. La Shon Blake, Office of Board Relations

Reviewed by:

Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel/Acting Board Secretary

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent