

East Newark Board of Education, 501 North 3rd St., East Newark, N. J. 07029

The **Special Public Meeting** of the East Newark Board of Education was held on July 29, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. Via Zoom.

Agenda

I. Sunshine Statement/Call to Order/Flag Salute –

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, adequate notification of this meeting has been provided by advertising in the Jersey Journal and posted at the Borough Clerk’s Office.

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Ms. Goncalves (Brigite)	X	
Mr. Balsam (Mark)	X	
Ms. Lopez (Johanna)	X	
Ms. Fernandes (Carla)	X	
Ms. Slattery (Valeria)	X	

II. Executive Session (needed)

Executive Meeting was read by _____.

Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education hereby adjourns to Executive Session in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, for the reason(s) identified below. The minutes of the discussion during Executive Session will be available to the public when such minutes have been approved by the Board of Education pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 and the need for confidentiality no longer exists.*

- a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- b. Individual privacy
- c. Collective bargaining agreements
- d. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- f. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- g. Pending or anticipated litigation
- h. Attorney-client privilege
- i. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employers

Enter Executive Session: Motion _____; Second _____; Voice Vote _____.

Exit Executive Session: Motion _____; Second _____; Voice Vote _____.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Superintendent’s Report: Revised Reopening Plan

East Newark Reopening Plan Revised.pdf (7/29/20, 12:58 PM) attached

ENRP slides.ppt (7/29/20, 9:15 AM) attached

VI. Resolutions (Consent agenda)

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07-804-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the *East Newark School Reopening Plan (revised)*.

Discussion: Motion Mr. Balsam ; Second Ms. Lopez ; Voice Vote aye.

Consent Agenda: Resolution 07-804-20				
Motion: Ms. Lopez		Second: Ms. Goncalves		
	Yea	Ney	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Balsam Jr. (Mark)	X			
Ms. Fernandes (Carla)			X	
Ms. Goncalves (Brigite)	X			
Ms. Lopez (Johanna)	X			
Ms. Slattery (Valeria)	X			

VII. Old Business
None

VIII. New Business
Ms. Goncalves appointed Ms. Slattery and Mr. Balsam to the ad hoc committee to meet with the Mayor and Council regarding the Recreation Center.

IX. Public Comment/Questions
Mr. Balsam asked the following question:

Mr. Balsam: Has the BOE always been responsible for maintenance and repairs of the rec. center?

Superintendent: As far as I can remember the Board has always paid the utilities and performed rec. center maintenance.

Mr. Balsam: Was the Mayor and Council informed of the maintenance now being done at the rec. center? If so, when? If not, why not?

Superintendent: Yes. As stated, Mr. Catrambone has been appointed by the Mayor as school liaison. Since May, I have kept him informed. Specifically, on July 16 I informed Mr. Catrambone that we would be fixing electric, repairing the roof, and erecting temporary partitions.

Mr. Balsam: You said the you were first informed of the rec. center renovations on July 14. Were you provided any details regarding the rec center renovations.

Superintendent: I requested details. Specifically, I asked:

1. How much money is provided by the grant?
2. Who is providing the grant?

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3. What renovations are included in the grant?
4. What are the projected start and finish dates for the renovations?
5. Has the contract been awarded?
6. Who are the contractors?
7. When did the borough apply for the grant?

Mr. Catrambone responded:

1. How much money is provided by the grant? \$300,000 for this year.
2. Who is providing the grant? Hudson County Open Space
3. What renovations are included in the grant? TBD but possibly could include floor, HVAC, roof, sports equipment, bathroom
4. What are the projected start and finish dates for the renovations? TBD October was the suggested date which we suggested pushing back to January to allow a few more months for the board to find alternative space.
5. Has the contract been awarded? NO
6. Who are the contractors?
7. When did the borough apply for the grant? I believe in March

Mr. Balsam: Were you satisfied with those responses?

Superintendent: No. I do not understand how a grant for \$300,000 can be approved when the renovations are "TBD." And, I wonder how the grant could be approved without a Borough Council resolution accepting the grant and contracts being awarded. Mr. Catrambone "believes" the application was made in March. I'm sure the date is right on the application.

Mr. Balsam: Have you reviewed the application?

Superintendent: No. I made an OPRA request for application details on July 27. I hope to have a response within seven business days, as required by law.

Mr. Balsam: What do you suggest regarding the tampering with the Comcast account at the rec. center?

Superintendent: I believe an investigation is required. Mr. Balsam may have some experience in this area so I will be discussing my concerns with him.

X. Board Comments

Mr. Balsam stated that there was an attempt to influence Board elections in May.

XI. Adjournment

Motion Ms. Lopez ; Second Ms. Goncalves ;

John Johnson, Borough Attorney, asked to speak. He stated that he retracted the "Borough Council" from the letter sent to the superintendent, further stating that it was a formality. He stated that the Borough had a \$300,000 grant for the Recreation Center and that there was a deadline for its use. He will bring it to the attention of the Council either at a Special Meeting or on August 12 when every member will vote.

Having a motion to adjourn on the floor, the Board voted in favor of adjournment at 7:03 PM.