

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
September 21, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Board President Brigitte Goncalves called the Regular Virtual (Zoom) Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Wednesday September 21, 2020 at 6:15 p.m., led the Board in the Salute to the Flag and read the following Opening Statement:

OPENING STATEMENT

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Goncalves, Mr. Balsam, Jr., Ms. Lopez, Ms. Slattery

Absent: Ms. Fernandes

Also Present: Dr. Richard Corbett, Superintendent
Letizia Pantoliano, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (R 09-825-20 – 09-836-20)

Motion by: Mr. Balsam
Seconded by: Ms. Slattery

ROLL CALL: YES 4 NO 0 RECUSE 0

09-825-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the minutes of the Regular Public Meeting held on August 17, 2020 and the Special Meeting held on September 3, 2020, as submitted.

09-826-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of Bills and Claims, from the Current Account and Cafeteria Account dated August 18, 2020 through September 21, 2020 in the amount of \$376,153.66.

09-827-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of August 15, 2020 and August 30, 2020 payrolls as follows:

August 15, 2020	\$ 26,316.43
August 30, 2020	<u>\$ 22,054.00</u>
Total	\$ 48,370.43

09-828-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Board Secretary's (A148) Report and Treasurer's (A149 Report) as attached.

09-829-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the certification of funds, Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, that as of August 30, 2020 no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and

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expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A16.10(a).

- 09-830-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the employment of Paul Vizzuso as part-time School Business Administrator at an annual salary of \$44,000, pro-rated, with no benefits (health, holiday, vacation, sick or personal days) effective September 22, 2020 until June 30, 2021 (attachment).
- 09-831-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the lease agreement with Holy Cross Church (attachment).
- 09-832-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Agreement with School Based Therapy Services (attachment).
- 09-833-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves 2020-21 Tuition Contract for Student # JA287229 with Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$35,088.00.
- 09-834-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves 2020-21 Tuition Contract for Student # SA295502 with Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$35,088.00.
- 09-835-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves 2020-21 Tuition Contract for Student # DC307459 with Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$35,088.00.
- 09-836-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves 2020-21 Tuition Contract for Student # EV266385 with Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$35,088.00.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- Under challenging circumstances, our school year began on September 3. As you know, all instruction is virtual. Teachers are doing outstanding work in terms of scheduling and presenting on-line instruction. As Mrs. Pereira and I visit classrooms on a random basis, our major concern is erratic student attendance. I address this concern daily during our morning announcements. When a child is absent, we immediately contact the parent.
- I plan on meeting with the Re-opening Committee before the end of September to reassess our *Re-Opening Plan*. It is imperative that students return to school sooner than later. Although we are working hard to make virtual learning effective, it cannot replace the efficacy of in-person learning.
- “*Back to School Night*” was conducted virtually on September 17. After I met with parents from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., they visited with their child’s teacher. Regular attendance was emphasized by every teacher.
- I am pleased to recommend Mr. Paul Vizzuso to replace Dr. Letizia Pantoliano as our school business administrator. Having worked for the East Newark Board of Education previously, Paul is very familiar with our school and the East Newark community. Paul is a highly experienced and effective school business administrator. His work ethic and skill set will ensure that district expenditures are within budget and funds are always used for the benefit of students.

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- I would like to update the board regarding our efforts to relocate the pre-kindergarten program. As you know, I was notified mid-July that our youngest students would no longer have access to the recreational center, effective September 1, 2020 (Later, the date was pushed back to December 2020). This order to vacate has forced me to consider alternate locations for our three and four-year-old students.
 - As reported to the Board at the August 17 meeting, I have met with Fr. John de Sousa, the pastor of Holy Cross Church to discuss leasing a portion of their former school. I am pleased to report to the board, that Fr. John and I have agreed on a short term lease (1 year) which the board will approve this evening. It is my intention to move grades 5 to 8 to Holy Cross at the conclusion of the Winter Break.
 - Leasing the third floor of the former Holy Cross School, will provide us with an additional 10 classrooms, a full size gym, stage and a cafeteria. The school is within close proximity to East Newark School; four-tenths of a mile and seven minutes to walk.
 - Over the next few months, I will be working with our architect, Mr. Peter Campisano to make the necessary preparations. We are estimating that it will cost approximately \$25,000 to remediate the third floor.
 - This reconfiguration will free up four classrooms and allow us to move pre-kindergarten back to East Newark School. However, since both pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms require a bathroom, we will apply for a waiver from the Department of Education. This is a short-term solution and a permanent home for pre-kindergarten is still needed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Balsam asked Dr. Corbett when would the lease for Holy Cross go into effect? Dr. Corbett stated when we the occupy the space.
- Ms. Goncalves thanked Ms. Pantoliano for her services to the District and welcomed Mr. Vizzuso abroad.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Ms. Balsam, Jr.

Seconded by: Ms. Goncalves

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the East Newark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary