

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes November 16, 2020

Board President Brigitte Goncalves called the Regular Virtual (Zoom) Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday November 16, 2020 at 6:24 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: Mr. Balsam, Jr., Vice President
Ms. Fernandes
Ms. Lopez
Ms. Slattery
Ms. Goncalves, President

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Richard Corbett, Superintendent
R. Paul Vizzuso, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:26 PM

Ms. Goncalves read the following statement:

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.

- Personnel employment matters affecting a specific prospective and/or current employees

Motion by: Mr. Balsam, Jr.
Seconded by: Ms. Goncalves

All in favor

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 6:39 PM

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

All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- On November 9, we opened for middle school in-person instruction. It was wonderful to see some of our older students return. They too, were excited to return to school. Unfortunately, Saturday morning, November 14, I received word that a member of our school community tested positive requiring us to close the middle school. We contacted parents through a phone blast, Twitter. A letter explaining the situation was posted on the website. That same day, I also informed the Board President of our pending closure.

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- Unfortunately, this morning we received notice that another member of our community tested positive. Parents and the community has been informed that we will close school. All students will learn virtually, at least until November 30.
- As of today, 71 students have opted for all virtual instruction. That is up 36 from the previous month. Teachers continue to provide instruction synchronously. We are making the best out of a difficult situation and I am grateful to our parents, students, faculty and staff for their patience.
- As a reminder, I encourage our board and community to frequently check our website and follow me on twitter to receive the most recent updates. As you know, this remains a fluid situation and you can expect daily changes. The *East Newark School District Hybrid Reopening Plan* remains posted on the website for your review.
- In preparation for occupying Holy Cross on January 4, we continue to upgrade the building. I would like to share with you our estimated budget for the upgrades. These are estimates and final expenses are likely to change, either more or less.

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE (R 11-852-860-20)

Motion by: Mr. Balsam, Jr.
Seconded by: Ms. Fernandes

ROLL CALL: YES 5 NO 0 RECUSE 0

11-852-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following policies:

Second Reading			
Policy	Regulation	Title	Summary
1620 (M) (Revised)		Administrative Employment Contracts	Public notice and hearing is required.
2431 (M) (Revised)	2431.1 (M) (Revised)	Athletic Competition	Requires emergency action plan.
2462 (M) (Revised)		Gifted and Talented	Development of G&T programs
5330.05 (M) (New)	5330.05 (M) (New)	Seizure Action Plan	Parents required to submit seizure action plan.
6440 (M) (Revised)		Cooperative Purchasing	Definitions updated
6470.01 (M) (New)	6470.01 (M) (New)	Electronic Funds Transfer and Claimant Certification	For districts that choose to use EFTs.
7440 (M) (Revised)	7440 (M) (Revised)	School District Security	School safety audit required annually.
7450 (M) (Revised)		Property Inventory	Revises definitions of "equipment" and "supply."
7510 (M) (Revised)	7510 (M) (Revised)	Use of School Facilities	Outside groups receive safety information
8420 (M) (Revised)		Emergency and Crises Situations	Subs receive safety & security information.
8561 (M) (Revised)		Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs	Ensures compliance with new USDA regulations.
1648 (M) (Revised)		Restart and Recovery Plan	Requires district to develop a Restart and Recovery Plan
1648.02 (M) (New)		Remote Learning Options for Families	Plan to accommodate requests for full-time remote learning.
1648.03 (M) (New)		Restart and Recovery Plan: Full-Time Remote Instruction	Allows conditional for full-time remote instruction.

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- 11-853-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Pascack Data proposal for Holy Cross internet and Wi-Fi, as per attachment.
- 11-854-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the contract for Rosaura Bagolie, Ed. D. to provide educational evaluations as per attachment.
- 11-855-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the financial reports (attached), which include the monthly Board Secretary's report and the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month ended September 30, 2020. The Board notes that the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports are in balance for the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended September 30, 2020.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c), I Paul Vizzuso, Board Secretary, certifies that as of September 30, 2020 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1, and that the District financial accounts have been reconciled and are in balance, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through the adoption of this resolution, we, the East Newark Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10, certify that as of September 30, 2020, after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's obligations for the remainder of the school year.
- 11-856-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Monthly Transfer Report (attached), for the month ended September 30, 2020.
- 11-857-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Jorge Castro, middle school English language arts maternity leave (BA Step 1 [\$40,260], no benefits) effective November 30, 2020 for the remainder of the school year.
- 11-858-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves speech therapy services with Kid Clan Services, Inc. as per attachment.
- 11-859-20** **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 October 19, 2020 as submitted.
- 11-860-20** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Monthly Transfer Report (attached), for the month ended June 30, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Goncalves made the following comment.

I would like to take this opportunity to address concerns that were brought to the Office of the County Superintendent regarding the District on October 27th.

With regards to matters of the school operating in person or virtually, I thank Dr. Corbett for keeping the Board apprised of the changes. It is evident that the Administration must act in accordance with the current situation. The law permits that the Superintendent make the decision to move the students from in-person to virtual sessions and vice versa without Board approval. This is confirmed by the document provided by the Department of Education entitled "The Road Back". It is my understanding that all Board Members were offered a copy via email. Please reach out to Dr. Corbett or myself for a copy if you do not have one.

At this time, I will compliment Dr. Corbett and his guidance and leadership during this pandemic and thank our teachers for their efforts to educate our students during these very uncertain times.

Please let me remind all Board Members that our duties as Board Members are not to run the school but to ensure that the school is managed administratively and financially in accordance with the laws that govern the administration of school districts.

Another concern that was brought to the Office of the County Superintendent was the majority of the Board's decision to allow the public to vote on a Type I or Type II school district. Any insinuation that this was a surprise is erroneous and documents provided to the Board Members for review will confirm such.

I am confident that this Board is acting in accordance with the law and that is further confirmed by the feedback from the County Superintendents Office.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Mr. 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 6:51 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary