

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

Board President Brigitte Goncalves called the Regular Virtual Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday December 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, President
Mr. Balsam, Jr., Vice President
Ms. Lopez
Ms. Slattery

Absent: Ms. Fernandes

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

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- The Reopening Committee met on Monday, December 14 to discuss the feasibility of opening school for in-person learning on January 4, as planned. Due to the number of positive Covid-19 cases in our area, the committee unanimously recommended that we delay our opening scheduled for January 4. The Committee will meet again the week of January 25 to reconsider a date to reopen school.
- In the meantime, I am pleased to report that renovations to Holy Cross are proceeding, almost on schedule. The HVAC repairs are almost complete, locks have been fitted on all doors, the rooms and hallways have been cleaned and disinfected and the necessary electrical upgrades are complete. There is a slight delay in the wiring required for phones, and internet. However, this too should be completed before Christmas vacation.
- After all the repairs are complete and after the holiday break I will be providing a virtual tour of our new school for parents and the community. I am confident that our students and their parents will be quite pleased with our new facility. In the meantime, I welcome our board members to a preview. I am happy to provide a tour at your convenience.
- Although we had significant snow on December 17, classes remained virtually in session. As we approach the end of this school year, I am sure the students and staff will be grateful that we did not have to use snow days.
- Once again, I commend our teachers for their efforts to provide our students with quality instruction remotely. This is no easy task and our faculty have been dedicated and diligent in their efforts.
- Finally, I would like to thank Santa for visiting our students on December 18, during morning announcements. He brought many smiles to the faces our students!

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CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R-12-861-874-20

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

ROLL CALL: YES 4 NO 0 RECUSE 0

BOARD COMMENT

NONE

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R-12-861-874-20

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

ROLL CALL: YES 4 NO 0 RECUSE 0

12-861-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the position of part-time administrative assistant (up to 25 hours per week) to facilitate the transition to Holy Cross School.

12-862-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Evelyn Ayala, as administrative assistant \$15 per hour, 25 hours per week, no benefits.

12-863-20 WHEREAS, this Board has determined that it is desirous to enter into a new employment agreement with Dr. Richard Corbett; and

WHEREAS, this Board held a special meeting on November 16, 2020 to permit the public to view the terms and conditions of the new employment agreement for Dr. Corbett; and

WHEREAS, this Board received notice from the Executive County Superintendent for the approval for the new employment agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board approves the new employment agreement for Dr. Richard Corbett for a four-year-six-month employment agreement beginning on January 1, 2021 and concluding on June 30, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board authorizes the Board President to execute said employment agreement, which is annexed hereto and shall be made part of the record.

12-864-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following teachers for Title 1 After School Remediation, Monday to Thursday, one hour per day at the rate of \$45. per hour:

Name	Grade	Subject
Maria Borisuk	Pre-kindergarten	Math / ELA
Vanessa Jablonsky	Kindergarten	Math / ELA
Jennifer Perkins	Grade 2	Math / ELA
Marixza Acuna	Grade 3	Math / ELA
JiannaMarie Padilla	Grade 4	Math / ELA
Jeanine Rugani	Grade 4	Math / ELA

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Joyce Machcinski	Grade 5	Math / ELA
Odemaris Herskovitz	Grade 5	Math / ELA
Ingrid Fullerton	Middle School	Math
Carol Costanzo	Middle School	Math
Wendy Busanich	Middle School	Language Arts
Marlene Hinostraza	Middle School	Language Arts / ESL
Margaret Jackson	Middle School	ELA

12-865-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorization is hereby given to submit an application for the School Security Grant issued

by the NJ Department of Education and the NJ School Development Authority for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$20,000.00. The purpose of this grant is to improve school security as authorized by the Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act, P.L. 2018, c.119 (Alyssa’s Law).

12-866-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Odemaris Herskovitz for at home instruction 10 hours per week, per student (201559 / 201739) effective 12/8/20 at rate of \$45. per hour.

12-867-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves contract for Speech Services, Dr. L. Hanes & Associates.

12-868-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acknowledges the resignation of Silvia Rainho, school guidance counselor, effective January 15, 2021.

12-869-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Preschool Operation Plan for 2021 – 2022,

12-870-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following minutes as submitted.

- a. November 16, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes
- b. November 16, 2020 Executive Session Minutes
- c. November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

12-871-20 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the financial reports as submitted, which include the monthly Board Secretary’s report and the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month ended November 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020 (on file Board Office). The Board notes that the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports are in balance for the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended November 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c), I, R. Paul Vizzuso, Board Secretary, certify that as of November 30, 2020 and October 31, 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 and 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 November 30, 2020 and October 31, 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

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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 financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

12-872-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Monthly Transfer Reports as submitted for the month ended November 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020 (on file Board Office).

12-873-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Bill List as submitted in the amount of \$301,000.03 for December 21, 2020 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

12-874-20 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that approval is hereby given for the out-of-district placement and tuition for the 2020-2021 school year for the following student:

Student #	Placement	Tuition
3568483431	Harrison School Distract	\$8,353.00
6947089492	Harrison School District	\$8,353.00
3446040054	Harrison School District	\$14,353.00

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Goncalves made the following comment.

As we close out the year I would like to take this opportunity to share with our community some of the accomplishments our School District has made over the course of the past year. These accomplishments along with all of the hard work, dedication and time invested by the members of our Board of Education, school Administration, Staff and parents have made East Newark School an educational institution that fosters our youth's education and successful future.

With recent changes to our staff, I am proud to say that our faculty is now held to the highest standards in education. From August 2018 thru June 2020, 12 members of the faculty/staff were either terminated or non-renewed. In fact, these changes have lead to our students showing great improvement on the PARCC standardized testing. 61% of our students scored higher in English Language Arts, math or both areas from the previous year. 65% of our third grade students who took the PARCC test for the first time met or exceeded expectation in either English Language Arts, Math or both.

Staffing changes have also been made to support the academic and social/emotional needs of our students by adding additional reading specialists and a full-time guidance counselor.

In two successive academic years a student has been accepted in the NJ SEEDS program providing scholarships to the most prestigious secondary schools in the country and another student was accepted into the Hudson County Schools of Technology.

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For the first time, the East Newark District has been classified at the top tier as a High Performing district in the QSAC evaluation used by the Department of Education that evaluates the districts instruction, fiscal, governance, operations and personnel.

The school building has undergone upgrades to the bathrooms just this past summer. Our middle school will now transition to the former Holy Cross School site where the district will have access to an indoor gymnasium and auditorium.

It gives me great joy to have been a student of this school and now part of this team that has accomplished so many great things. I continue to work with the members of the Board of Education, the Administration and Teachers to continue the development of our district that is leading to great success stories for our students.

With this, I wish everyone a very happy holiday and a happy and healthy new year.

Dr. Corbett also thanked the teachers for their dedication, particularly during these difficult times.

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 6:27 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary