

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes March 1, 2021

Board President Brigitte Goncalves called the Regular Virtual Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday March 1, 2021 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. Fernandes
Ms. Lopez, joined meeting at 6:37 p.m.
Ms. Slattery

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Richard Corbett, Superintendent
R. Paul Vizzuso, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Allan Roth, Board Attorney
Andy Zabiega, School Auditor

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:30 p.m.

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.

- Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- Attorney-client privilege

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

All in favor

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 6:41 p.m.

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

All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reopening Committee

Our Reopening Committee met on Monday, February 22 at 1:30 p.m. I am accepting the committee's recommendation that we open school for in-person learning on April 19. I have also decided that in-person learning will take place five days per week, as opposed to the four day per week in the fall.

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We will also be providing safety protocols in addition to mask, face shields, temperature checks, and screenings. These include; desk shields / dividers for all students, commercial / medical grade air purifiers in classrooms, common areas, and daily opportunities for outdoor instructions.

A survey has been provided to parents by which they can indicate if they intend to send their child to school for instruction, and whether they are committed to keeping their child in school, at least until the end of the school year.

Back to School Night

Our *Back to School Night* was held on February 25 from 6:00 to 7:30 at the middle school (Holy Cross). Approximately 70 parents attended and after reaching capacity, we were not able to admit everyone to the event. We did provide parents with a date to resume in-person learning while also explaining our protocols to ensure student and staff safety. We encouraged parents join the PTO and provide them with an opportunity to tour our new middle school classrooms.

For those who were not able to attend, the power point presentation is available on line. I have also offered a personal tour of the middle school facilities to anyone who was not able to attend that evening.

Plans for Summer School

Also discussed at the *Back to School Night* was our concern regarding academic loss during the pandemic. We recognize that many of our students are struggling to learn virtually and many will experience learning loss. To compensate for this inevitability, I will be working with Dr. Bagolie and Mrs. Pereira to plan a more intensive summer school that will include theoretical and experiential learning. I am also considering the feasibility of extending the hours available for summer learning.

We also recognize that many of our students are experiencing social and emotional trauma caused by the pandemic. I have asked Ms. Nathaly Vera, our school social worker to develop a programmatic response that might include group discussions and counseling, beginning as soon as practical and extending over the summer.

Family Fun Night

Our most recent Family Fun Night was held on February 12. It was a great success with many students participating and winning some very exciting prizes. I am grateful to Mr. Fronjian and Dr. Bagolie and all the faculty and staff that participated. Another Family Fun Night is scheduled for March 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Art & Music / Talent Show

We are hoping to have an art and music show sometime during the week of April 12. Not only will this allow us to show case our students' talents, it will be also a first step toward bring both parents and students back to school.

Exterior Renovation

Renovations to the envelope of the East Newark School building are essential to ensure the building remains in service and vital to the health and safety of the community. While the borough passed the bonding ordinance last year to finance this project (and the bathroom renovations), we are waiting for the execution of the bonds before we bid for the building project. Mr. Steve Rogut, our bond attorney has assured me that meetings regarding bonds would commence early March 2021.

Meal Deliveries

In an effort to get more meals to more families, meal deliveries have begun today. Parents requesting meals may visit our website and submit the google form.

NJSLA

On February 12, the Department of Education announced that the *New Jersey Student Learning Assessment* (NJSLA – formerly PARCC) would be postponed at least until after April 5, 2021. I understand that the Department of Education requested a waiver due to the pandemic. The waiver was denied. A date for administration of the assessment has not yet been determined.

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Basketball at the Middle School (Holy Cross)

Our basketball season began February 17, at the Holy Cross gym with about 12 middle school boys and girls attending. This year, our team will focus on intramural completion and the teams will be co-ed. We hope this provides more opportunities for our students to participate.

April 20 Referendum

I anticipate that the board's resolution last fall to transition from a Type I to a Type II district will be on the ballot April 20, 2021.

Budget

An addendum for this evening's agenda is to pass the district's budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Since the Governor only gave his address on February 23, it was not possible to construct the budget and include in on the agenda that was delivered to Board members on Friday. After a final review, it was emailed about noon today as an addendum to the agenda.

We are pleased to say that despite the financial challenges presented to the district during the year (e.g., a plethora of Covid-19 expenses, relocating from the Recreational Center) we are able to present a flat budget that is, with no tax increase.

Even after providing our teachers with a fair Collective Bargaining Agreement, this budget supports and maintains all educational services, and extracurricular activities.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R 03-887-21 – 03-905-21

Motion by: Mr. Balsam, Jr

Seconded by: Ms. Lopez

ROLL CALL: YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0

BOARD COMMENT

None

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R 03-887-21 – 03-905-21

Motion by: Mr. Balsam, Jr

Seconded by: Ms. Slattery

ROLL CALL: YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0

03-887-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of grants: Digital Divide and School Security.

03-888-21 **Be It Resolved that** the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the following SEMI waiver be approved:
WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides the school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-22 school year; and
WHEREAS, the East Newark Board of Education in the County of Hudson desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students OR participation in SEMI would not provide a cost benefit to the district based on the projection of the District's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2021-22 budget year;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Newark Board of Education in the County of Hudson hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Hudson an appropriate waiver of requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2021-22 school year.

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03-889-21 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the suspension of Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings to adopt a Bylaw of Policy and adopt Bylaw 0164.6 with one reading to be in compliance with the new emergency regulations regarding remote meetings held during a Governor-declared emergency, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through 1.7, promulgated by the Department of Community Affairs.

03-890-21 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Acknowledges the first reading of the following policies:

First Reading			
Policy	Regulation	Title	Summary
0145 (M)		Board Member Resignation and Removal	“Regular” board meeting option has been removed.
0164.6 (M)*		Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency	This new policy established protocols for remote, public board meetings.
	1642 (M)	Earned Sick Leave Law	Revised to incorporate the pertinent amendments to NJSA 34:11D-1 et seq.
1643 (M)		Family Leave	This new policy incorporates the revisions to the NJFLA.
5330.1 (M)	5330.1 (M)	Administration of Medical Cannabis	Revised to change “marijuana” to “cannabis.”
7425 (M)	7425 (M)	Lead Testing of Water in Schools	Policy revised to require testing every third year beginning 2021 -2022 New Regulation reflecting mandated procedures for testing.
2415 (M)		Every Student Succeeds Act	Revised to list the general provisions of ESSA.
2415.02 (M)		Title I – Fiscal Responsibilities	Revised to provide a “Supplement, Not Supplant” section.
2415.05 (M)		Student Surveys, Analysis, and /or Evaluations	Revised to remove the NCLB citation and provide an updated definition of “minor” student.

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2415.20 (M)	2415.20 (M)	Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints	Revised to update provisions of the complaint procedure.
4125 (M)		Employment of Support Staff Members	Revised to change “NCLB” to “ESSA.”
6360 (M)		Political Contributions	Revised to remove the provisions referencing “contracted educational services.”
8330 (M)		Student Records	Revised to reflect changes in NJSA 18A:36-19.1.
9713 (M)		Recruitment by Special Interest Groups	Revised to reflect changes in NJSA 18A:36-19.1.
* Approved: First Reading.			

03-891-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves abolishment of the following policies:

Approval of the abolishment of the following policies:			
Policy	Regulation	Title	Summary
3431.1 (M)		Family Leave	Now under Policy 1643
4431.1 (M)		Family Leave	Now under Policy 1643
3431.3		New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program	Now under Policy 1643
4431.3		New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program	Now under Policy 1643
7430 (M)	7430 (M)	School Safety	Abolished since legal requirements are incorporated in other policies.
2415.01 (M)		Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability	AYP no longer required.
2415.03 (M)		Highly Qualified Teachers	ESSA no longer requires teachers meet the “highly qualified teacher” definition under NCLB.

03-892-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the *Temporary School Facilities Application; 2020-2021*.

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03-901-21 **Be it resolved**, that the Board of Education of East Newark, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the 2021-2022 Travel Expenditure be approved.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A: 11-12, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(a) in each pre-budget year, the Board of Education is required to establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year which may not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, the East Newark Board of Education established for the 2020-2021 school year a budget amount of \$0 with a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$0 per employee which was subject to the approval requirements in N.J.S.A18A: 19-1. and

WHEREAS, the Est Newark Board of Education has expended \$0 as of January 31, 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the East Newark Board of Education hereby establishes for the 2021-2022 school year a budget amount of \$1,000 with a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$100.00 per employee which shall be subject to the approval requirements in N.J.S.A18A: 19-1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum is not exceeded.

03-902-21 **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 January 31, 2021. The Board notes that the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports are in balance for the cash receipts and disbursements for the month ended January 31, 2021 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 January 31, 2021 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 January 31, 2021 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 financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

03-903-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the opening of a new bank account entitled *Capital Reserve* with Valley Bank, and also approves the transfer of \$559,127.00 from the Operating Account to the Capital Reserve Account as it's starting balance.

03-904-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves application for final bathroom payment in the amount of \$32,649.55

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03-905-21 **Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Borough of East Newark that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the tentative budget be approved for the 2021-2022 School Year using the 2021-2022 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline. With the submission of this budget the Board approves that the Tax Levy will remain flat at a 0% increase.**

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Jersey Journal in accordance with the format suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a virtual public hearing be held on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year.

General Fund	\$6,089,824
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 393,949
Total Budget	\$6,483,773

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

- Ms. Goncalves thanked everyone for their hard work

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Mr. Balsam, Jr

Seconded by: Ms. Slattery

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the East Newark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary