

**Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes March 29, 2021**

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Board Vice President Mark Balsam Jr. called the Regular Meeting (Virtual) of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday March 29, 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 6:45 p.m.  
Ms. Slattery

**Absent:** None

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

**INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:17 p.m.**

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

***All in favor***

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 6:24 p.m.**

Motion by: Ms. Goncalves  
Seconded by: Ms. Slattery

***All in favor***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**NJSLA**

Despite a request for a waiver from the New Jersey Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education announced that states will not be allowed to cancel federally mandated standardized exams this school year regardless of the pandemic, though they will be offered significant flexibility in how they give those tests and how they are used. East Newark, like other districts around the state, are concerned with

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learning loss throughout the pandemic and the logistics of administering an on-line standardized assessment during virtual instruction.

**Another Seeds Success!**

We congratulate Allison Garcia (grade 8) who has been accepted into the very prestigious *SEEDS program*. She is currently applying to some of the most prominent high schools in the country and she has already been accepted by The White Mountain School, located in New Hampshire. Fortunately, there will be a minimum cost to her family. In addition, Allison was one of a few applicants accepted into the *SEEDS Scholars Program*. Well done Allison!

Last Friday, March 26, *SEEDS* met virtually with some of our grade 7 students to offer them an opportunity to apply. We hope that one or two of our current seventh grade students will take advantage of this awesome opportunity.

**Summer School 2021**

In response to the learning loss incurred by many students throughout this pandemic, we are planning to significantly expand this year's summer school program. For example, we are planning to increase services from 4 to 5 days per week, and from 4 to 6 hours per day. Moreover, we will extend the program for an additional 2 weeks. We plan to begin our program July 6 and end August 13. In addition to providing remedial academics in the morning, we will offer social, emotional and physical activities in the afternoon.

As part of our afternoon session, and to support the social and emotional development of our students, we are considering offering martial arts since this is one way to integrate life skills with fun physical activities.

To cover these expanded services and to substitute for our own teachers who have opted out of teaching summer school, additional staff must be hired. The hiring and planning process has begun and resolution 03-911-21 reflects the current teaching staff that will be required for summer.

The required funds will be drawn from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA).

**Lunch Bunch**

I am certain that many of our students have struggled socially and emotionally due to the isolation caused by the pandemic. To address this, I have asked our school social worker, Miss Vera to provide opportunities for our students to meet and discuss relevant issues and concerns. In response, she has formed "The Lunch Bunch" which is an informal group aimed at supporting East Newark School students' social/emotional needs impacted by COVID-19. The groups are made up of middle school students, and each grade is assigned a specific time. Due to COVID-19, only five students are allowed per grade in order to follow social distancing rules, as well as temperature checks and sanitization. On Mondays, the group consists of grades 6 and 8, and Wednesdays grades 5 and 7. The group is held twice a week and began on March 1, 2021. Board games, coloring pages, and other supplies are provided for the students to use when they arrive. Although the group is informal, it creates a safe space for students to relax, develop conversational skills, and bring up any concerns that they may have.

**Trivia Night**

Students (grades 5 to 8), faculty/staff and parents participated our Trivia Night hosted virtually by Mrs. Brown and Mr. Fronjian on March 5. Prizes, donated by the PTO, were awarded to the top 4 winners. Mrs. Brown did a fantastic job setting up the trivia game through Kahoot where the questions ranged in level of difficulty, and were based on information learned in school over the last few years in science, social studies, math, music and health. We look forward to hosting another Trivia Night in the near future.

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**Shared 911**

To enhance the safety of students and staff, we will be using Shared 911. This web based services expedites emergency communication between our staff and emergency services. Teachers will have the Shared 911 app on their phone and be able to immediately report emergencies and missing students. Police and fire will more readily know the exact location of the caller or intruder. The entire staff, including paraprofessionals, will be reviewing and practicing with this service during our professional development day, scheduled for March 19.

**April Shows**

April brings showers and shows! Currently we are planning both an Art Show and a Talent Show. Additional information will be provided. As of now:

**On April 14: East Newark Has Talent!**

- ✚ Location: East Newark Middle School (Holy Cross) 15 Frank E. Rodgers Blvd. South, Harrison
- ✚ K-2: performance from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.
- ✚ Grades 2, 4, & 5: performance from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.
- ✚ Middle School: performance from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**On April 15: East Newark Art Gallery**

- ✚ Location: East Newark Elementary School (501 North Third Street, East Newark)
- ✚ K-2: art work displayed from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.
- ✚ Grades 2, 4, & 5: art work displayed from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.
- ✚ Middle School: art work displayed from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Resignation**

Our first grade teacher, Mrs. Stephany Fardin has announced her resignation effective April 16, 2021. Mrs. Marlene Hinostroza has agreed to accept the responsibilities for the first grade.

**Superintendent Evaluation**

I have begun my part of the Superintendent Evaluation. After it is complete, board members will be notified and need to provide input.

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R 03-907-21 – 03-923-21**

Motion by: Ms. Fernandes  
Seconded by: Ms. Slattery

**ROLL CALL: YES 4 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0**

**BOARD COMMENT**

None

**RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R 03-907-21 – 03-923-21**

Motion by: Ms. Fernandes  
Seconded by: Ms. Slattery

**ROLL CALL: YES 4 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0**

**03-907-21 Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Mrs. Perkins as talent show coordinator at the negotiated rate of \$45. per hour not to exceed \$500.

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- 03-908-21**     **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Ms. Jackson as Art Show Coordinator at the negotiated rate of \$45. per hour not to exceed \$500.
- 03-909-21**     **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Marixza Acuna to move on the salary guide to BA 15, effective July 1, 2021.
- 03-910-21**     **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Derris Brown to move on the salary guide to BA 30, effective July 1, 2021.
- 03-911-21**     **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following teachers for Summer School 2021, from July 6 to August 12, at a rate of \$45 per hour, five days per week, five hours per day (no benefits paid by East Newark School District over and above the ENEA CBA). The approximate total cost for staffing summer school will be \$130,000, supplemented by ESSR II funds. (\*Approval of district teachers are pending criminal background checks)

Summer School July 6 to August 12, 2021 (June orientation day TBD)	
Name	Assignment (Subject to change)
Maria Borisuk	Pre-K
Laura Gonella*	Kindergarten
Ana Concha*	Grade 1
Joseph Pizzano*	Grade 2
Marixza Acuna (July only)	Grade 3
Janelle Kennedy*	Grade 3
Jeanine Rugani (July only)	Grade 4
Tania Mora*	Grade 4
JiannaMarie Padilla	Grade 4
Lamar Jenkins*	Grade 5 (ELA)
Lizette Morales*	Grade 5 (Math)
Jorge Castro	6-7-8 (ELA)
Sheila Feliciano*	6-7-8 (ELA)
Carol Costanzo	6-7-8 (Math)
Ingrid Fullerton	6-7-8 (Math)
Marlene Hinojosa (July only)	Bilingual

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Brandon Fronjian	ELA application to Physical Education
Margaret Jackson	ELA application to Art
John Colaiacovo	ELA application to Music
Nathaly Vera	School Social Worker

**03-912-21**      **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following minutes as submitted.

- March 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 1, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes

**03-913-21**      **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 February 28, 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 February 28, 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 February 28, 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 February 28, 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.

**03-914-21**      **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 February 28, 2021.

**03-915-21**      **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 \$130,681.86 for March 29, 2021 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

**03-916-21**      **Be it resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 budget.

**WHEREAS**, the East Newark Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 1, 2021 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 12, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Jersey Journal on March 24, 2021; and

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**WHEREAS**, the final budget was presented to the public during a public hearing on March 29, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the budget for General Fund Expenses shall be \$6,089,824, of which \$1,512,158 shall be raised by tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the budget for Special Revenue Fund Expense shall be \$393,949 of which \$0.00 shall be raised by tax levy; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the East Newark Board of Education hereby adopts the 2021-2022 School Year budget; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that there should be raised for the General Funds \$1,512,158 for the ensuing School Year 2021-2022.

**03-917-21 Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following policies and regulations:

<b>Second Reading</b>			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
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.

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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.
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.			

- 03-918-21**      **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the position of *Middle School Administrative Assistant / Grants Facilitator*.
- 03-919-21**      **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the position of: *Gifted and Talented Coordinator*.
- 03-920-21**      **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Derris Brown as *Yearbook and Graduation Moderator* at the contractual rate of \$45. per hour, per teacher, not to exceed \$1000.
- 03-921-21**      **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Wendy Busanich: *Yearbook and Gradation Moderator* at the contractual rate of \$45. per hour, per teacher, not to exceed \$1000.
- 03-922-21**      **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Mr. Colaiacovo as talent show co-coordinator, at the negotiated rate of \$45. per hour not to exceed \$500.
- 03-923-21**      **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acknowledges the resignation of Stephany Fardin, first grade teacher.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by: Ms. Fernandes

Seconded by: Ms. Lopez

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the East Newark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary