

**Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ**  
**Special Meeting Minutes May 4, 2021**

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**Board President** Brigitte Goncalves called the Regular Meeting (Virtual) of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday May 4, 2021 6:30 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

**Absent:** Ms. Lopez, Ms. Slattery

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

**INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:33 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
- Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employees

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

***All in favor***

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 6:38 p.m.**

Motion by: Ms. Goncalves  
Seconded by: Ms. Fernandes

***All in favor***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R 05-942-21**

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

**ROLL CALL: All in Favor**

**BOARD COMMENT**

None

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**RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R 05-942-21**

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

**ROLL CALL: YES 3 NO 0**

**05-942-21 Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves the second reading of the following policies:

| <b>Second Reading</b> |                   |  |   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| <b>Policy</b>         | <b>Regulation</b> | <b>Title</b>                             | <b>Summary</b>  |
| 0141.1                |                   | BOARD MEMBER AND TERM - SENDING DISTRICT | The Board of Education shall consist of 7 members.  |
| 0153                  |                   | ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS                      | Board Secretary, public school accountant, A medical inspector, A psychological examiner, A member to serve as delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association, An attendance officer(s), An attorney; |
| 0163                  |                   | QUORUM                                   | Consists of four members  |

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**Dr. Corbett**

Recognized Mr. Balsam for his years of service to the East Newark Board of Education, his dedication, his hard work. Mr. Balsam has been an asset to the Board.

**Ms. Goncalves, Board President**

Before we close the meeting this evening, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Board's Vice President, Mark Balsam who was instrumental in this Board's success this year. This will be Mr. Balsam's last meeting and I am so grateful for all that you have done for our District. Along with every other member on this Board who contributed in many ways, I am most honored to close this year with a very long list of accomplishments.

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I will just take a few moments to reflect on our accomplishments as a Board; many that have served as a first for our District:

In two successive academic years, an East Newark School student has been accepted to the NJ SEEDS academic program providing scholarships to the most prestigious secondary schools in the country. Likewise, another student was accepted and will be attending the Hudson County Schools of Technology.

The Quality Singular Accountability Continuum, also known as QSAC rated the East Newark School District as a High Performing District in the areas of Instruction, Fiscal Governance, Operations and Personnel.

Our HIB incidents have declined every year since 2018 and we are proud to report that in the current school year we have had zero cases of HIB reported.

We have experienced an increase of parent engagement in our District and the PTO was reactivated. It is important to recognize how instrumental the PTO was during the public health emergency and the Districts plan to reopen our educational facilities.

Additional staff has been hired to support the academic, social and emotional needs of our school population. We are expanding and formatting the summer school program to continue fostering these needs of our students.

Along with supporting the students academic, social and emotional needs, the Board took into account the limited space available at our main school building and acquired a lease to provide expanded learning space for our Middle School students and recreational facilities for all of our students. The Board supported the upgrades to the bathroom facilities in the main school and I am pleased to report that they were completed. The repairs to the envelope of the building, however have been delayed as a result of the postponement of financing for the project.

The Board began the process of locating available Board owned land to place a modular building for our pre-kindergarten students. The District's architect is currently working on the next steps for this project to be carried out.

There are so many more accomplishments to reflect on that make me extremely proud for serving this Board as President this year. All of these accomplishments AND the Board was able to provide a budget with a zero increase to the tax payer's!

I do want to take this time to thank Dr. Corbett as our Superintendent and Principal...you have been instrumental in the growth of our district and to the academic success of our students. To the teachers, parents, staff and members of the public thank you for all of your contributions as well, they do not go unnoticed. This year was quite unique and it was only through a team effort that we were able to make it a success.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and for your support and encouragement to accomplish each and every task that we realized this year.

**Dr. Corbett**

Thanked Ms. Goncalves for her positive words.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by: Mr. Balsam  
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 6:47 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Paul Vizzuso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

R. Paul Vizzuso  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary