

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes September 20, 2021

Board President Carla Fernandes called the Regular Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday September 20, 2021 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. Fernandes, President
Ms. Ditchkus
Ms. Goncalves
Ms. Lopez
Ms. Pinto- arrived @ 6:25 pm
Ms. Sarro

Absent: None

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

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:19 p.m.

No Executive Session

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Opened 6:17 pm – Closed 6:18 pm

No comments from the public

THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

First day of school

After almost 17 months of an unpredictable education schedule, on Friday, September 3rd all students reported to school for full-time, in-person instruction. To safeguard against the virus and ensure the safety of all students and staff, masks and health screenings are provided to all who enter the school. After months of uncertainties, our students arrived to school noticeably content to be back. Teachers and staff also returned happily, looking forward to reestablish familiar routines.

I am pleased to say that our middle school students thoroughly enjoy the extra space afforded by their new surroundings. These includes a full size gym, cafeteria, soccer field and basketball court.

Back to School Night

Our Back to School Night, originally scheduled for September 16 has been rescheduled for September 23. To limit attendance and maintain social distancing, I am asking that families send only one parent per student and all children remain at home. Upon arrival, parents will be screened and report directly to their child's classroom to meet their teacher. I will not be offering any introductory remarks.

Full-day preschool

As you know, Governor Murphy has committed to make universal preschool programs available to all New Jersey families within the next several years. I am pleased to announce that after significant planning, full-day preschool will come to East Newark beginning October 1, 2021. To initiate the program, we have been awarded \$337,039 which the board will accept this evening.

Since we were only awarded the grant two weeks ago, we have been scurrying to put the program in place which includes securing and renovating the classroom, hiring personnel, and purchasing instructional supplies and classroom furnishings. This all had to be done in less than a month. Although we are still in the process of setting up the program, we will be ready to go by October 1st.

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I will meet with preschool parents on during Back to School Night on September 23 at 6:30 p.m. to explain the details which include their child’s classroom assignment.

I am very grateful to the board of education for supporting this ambitious endeavor. I am confident that our parents will also thank you profusely for making this dream a reality in East Newark.

Personnel updates

Due to our need for paraprofessionals and the lack of applicants, we will be offering some of our paraprofessionals full-time positions, with single benefits. Otherwise, we would need to hire an additional five part-time paraprofessionals; which would be a very difficult task given the current labor shortage. By law, we must offer health benefits to employees who work more than 30 hours per week. With some full-time paraprofessionals, will now be able to provide the required support for our English Language Learners and students with IEPs. This will be funded through ARP - ESSER for three next years.

Building Exterior

The tiles in the newly renovated girls’ bathroom have been damaged and begun to fall off the wall due to water penetrating the building exterior. Once again, I appeal to the Borough of East Newark to sell the bonds as intended by the ordinance and required to finance the exterior project. We have an obligation to maintain the safety and integrity of our school building.

Halloween 2021

On October 29, with the help of the PTO, we will be holding a Halloween Dance / Party for our students at the middle school; our first in almost two years. The students are excited and we are looking forward to a very “haunting” experience!

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R09.1038.21 – 09.1066.21

Motion by: Mr. Lopez

Seconded by: Ms. Sarro

ROLL CALL: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN: Ms. Goncalves 09.1038.21, yes on the rest

- 09-1038-21** Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2021 Executive and Regular Meeting Minutes
- 09-1039-21** Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- 09-1040-21** Approve Transfers
- 09-1041-21** Approve Bill List for September 2021
- 09-1042-21** Accept Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Grant
- 09-1043-21** Acknowledge First Reading of Policies
- 09-1044-21** Approve Jorge Castro – Middle School Teacher
- 09-1045-21** Approve Nathaly Vera and Brandon Fronjian for Leadership Positions
- 09-1046-21** Approve Brandon Fronjian as Soccer Coach
- 09-1047-21** Approve Maria Borisuk as a Home Instruction Teacher
- 09-1048-21** Approve Odemaris Herskovitz as a Home Instruction Teacher
- 09-1049-21** Approve Diana Bentancourth, as Paraprofessional/Clerical Assistant
- 09-1050-21** Approve Ashley Hempstad as Paraprofessional
- 09-1051-21** Approve Elida Rueda Duque as Paraprofessional
- 09-1052-21** Approve Sandra Duran as Paraprofessional
- 09-1053-21** Approve Horizontal Move on the Salary Guide for Derris Brown
- 09-1054-21** Approve 2021-2022 Paraprofessional Contracts
- 09-1055-21** Approve Employee 2021-2022 Contract for Maria Cuenca
- 09-1056-21** Approve Employee 2021-2022 Contract for Janet Gamarra
- 09-1057-21** Approve Revised Lease Agreement with Holy Cross
- 09-1058-21** Amend School Calendar: Back to School rescheduled 9/16/21 to 9/23/21
- 09-1059-21** Approve Halloween Dance

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- 09-1060-21** Approve Remote Back up Plan
- 09-1061-21** Approve Muscato Speech & Language Services, LLC
- 09-1062-21** Approve Danica Davidman (Consultant) Agreement
- 09-1063-21** Approve 2021-2022 Tuition Contract with Sawtelle Learning Center
- 09-1064-21** Approve 2021-2022 Tuition Contract with Kearny Board of Education
- 09-1065-21** Approve 2021-2022 Tuition Contract with Kearny Board of Education
- 09-1066-21** Approve Second Floor Bathroom Addition

BOARD COMMENT

None

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R09.1038.21 – 09.1066.21

Motion by: Mr. Lopez

Seconded by: Ms. Sarro

ROLL CALL: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN: Ms. Goncalves **09.1038.21**, yes on the rest

09-1038-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following minutes, as submitted.

- August 16, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes
- August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

09-1039-21 **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 August 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 August 31, 2021.

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 August 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 August 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.

09-1040-21 **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 August 31, 2021.

09-1041-21 **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 \$299,933.68 for September 16, 2021 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

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09-1042-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) Grant in the amount of \$337,039.

09-1043-21 **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	Status	Regulation	Title	Summary
2422	Mandated – Revised		Comp. Health and P.E.	Includes the requirements of six new statutes
2467	Mandated – Revised		Surrogate Parents and Resource Family Parents	Terminology updates
5111	Mandated – Revised		Eligibility of Resident/Non resident students	Residency criteria is addressed
5116	Revised		Education of Homeless Children	Required reporting of students in district due to homelessness
7432	Mandated – Revised	7432	Eye Protection	Grammatical changes
8420	Mandated – Revised		Emergency and Crisis Situations	Allows for various sources to instruct students regarding fire and security drills
8420.1	Mandated – Revised		Fire and Fire Drills	
8540	Mandated – Revised		School Nutrition Programs	Meals provided to students after the day begins
8550	Mandated – Revised		Meal Charges and outstanding Food Service Bills	Three major revisions
8600	Mandated – Revised		Student Transportation	Requires the compilation of list of students transported to school sponsored activities

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8810	Abolished		Religious Holidays	Policy covered by 2270
6115.01	Mandated - New		Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs	SBA must determine the allowability of costs.
6115.02	Mandated - New		Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Mandatory Disclosures	S.D. must disclose fraud involving Federal Funds.
6115.03	Mandated - New		Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Conflict of Interest	Concerns the awarding of contracts.
6311	Mandated - Revised		Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants	Updated to include the Excluded Parties List
1648	Abolished		Restart and Recovery Plan	No longer necessary as the anticipated minimum standards
1648.02	Abolished		Remote Learning Options for Families	Remote learning is no longer an options
1648.03	Abolished		Restart and Recovery Plan-Full-Time Remote Instruction	Full-time remote instruction is no longer and options
1648.11	Mandated - Revised		The Road Forward COVID-19 – Health and Safety	Replaces the anticipated minimum standards outlined in <i>“The Road Back.”</i>

09-1044-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Jorge Castro, Middle School Teacher (BA – 1, \$43,993) effective, September 1, 2021. Single benefits, as per CBA.

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- 09-1045-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Nathaly Vera (grades 4 & 5) and Brandon Fronjian (grades 6-8) as East Newark Leadership Council Moderators for the 2021-2022 school year with a one-time stipend of \$1,000 each.
- 09-1046-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Brandon Fronjian as Soccer coach with a stipend of \$869.77 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 09-1047-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Maria Borisuk as a Home Instruction Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, not to exceed 10 hours per week at the ENEA negotiated hourly rate.
- 09-1048-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Odemaris Herskovitz as a Home Instruction Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year not to exceed 10 hours per week at the ENEA negotiated hourly rate.
- 09-1049-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Diana Bentencourth as a paraprofessional / clerical assistant for the 2021-2022 school year, at an hourly rate of \$13.50. Part time paraprofessional (8 – 12:45) part time office assistant (1:15 to 4 pm) at \$13.50 per hour, single health benefits. Funded with ARP-ESSER Grant.
- 09-1050-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Ashley Hempstad as Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$13.50 per hour, with single health benefits. *employment subject to criminal history review. Funded with ARP-ESSER Grant.
- 09-1051-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Elida Rueda Duque as Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$13.50 per hour, with single health benefits. *employment subject to criminal history review. Funded with ARP-ESSER Grant.
- 09-1052-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Sandra Duran as Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$13.50 per hour, with single health benefits. *employment subject to criminal history review. Funded with ARP-ESSER Grant.
- 09-1053-21** **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 MA8, effective September 1, 2021.
- 09-1054-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 employment contracts for the following paraprofessionals.
- Diana Bentancourth
 - Sofia Medina
 - Tamara Rivadeneira
 - Evelyn Garcia
 - Elsie Ubilla
 - Margarita Martillo
 - Maria Aliaga

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- Matthew Kazdin
- Cristina Dos Santos

- 09-1055-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 contract for Maria Cuenca, as attached.
- 09-1056-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 contract for Janet Gamarra, as attached.
- 09-1057-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the revised Lease Agreement with Holy Cross for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 09-1058-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the school calendar as follows:
Back to School night: rescheduled 9/16/21 to 9/23/21
- 09-1059-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a Halloween Dance at the Middle School on October 29, 2021.
- 09-1060-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Remote Backup Plan as attached.
- 09-1061-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Muscato Speech & Language Services, LLC at a rate of \$85 per hour for speech services for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 09-1062-21** **BE It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Danica Davidman (Consultant) at an hourly rate of \$125 not to exceed \$2,500, as per agreement.
- 09-1063-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021/2022 school term, September 2021 through June 2022, Tuition Contract for Student #NL with Sawtelle Learning Center in the amount of \$64,092.60.
- 09-1064-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021/2022 school term, September 2021 through June 2022, Tuition Contract for Student #DC with Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$38,350.
- 09-1065-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021/2022 school term, September 2021 through June 2022, Tuition Contract for Student #SA Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$31,420.
- 09-1066-21** **WHEREAS**, the East Newark School District, in the county of Hudson, New Jersey, (the “Board”), desires to proceed with an “other capital project,” generally consisting of the renovation of one room on the second floor into a toilet facilities under the ESCNJ Cooperative at East Newark School; and
WHEREAS, the Board now seeks to take steps in order to proceed with the project and comply with NJAC 6A:26-5.2 and 5.3 and related sections of the code; and

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WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Education reviews and approves other capital outlay projects.

That the East Newark School District Board of Education does hereby authorize and direct the architectural firm of USA Architects, Planners + Interior Designers and the School Business Administrator, as applicable, to prepare the Department of Education Submission Package in connection with the project.

WHEREAS, That the Architect and the School Business Administrator, as applicable, to prepare an amendment to the district's Long Range Facility Plan in connection with the project.

That the project is an "Other Capital" project, and the Board of Education is not seeking ROD Grant funding (not available) in connection with the project.

That the Architect, School Business Administrator, and Board Attorney as applicable, are hereby authorized to undertake all related actions necessary in connection with the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the East Newark School District Board of Education authorizes the submission of the project to the New Jersey Department of Education for consideration and approval.

This resolution shall become effective immediately.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Goncalves asked for an update from last Executive Session

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS - Opened 6:27 PM, Closed 6:36 PM

- Resident in attendance inquired about the Preschool Program, schedule and location, Dr. Corbett stated that it would be discussed on Thursday during the Preschool meeting.
- Resident stated there should be better communication with parents, Dr. Corbett stated information is sent out on a regular basis and also posted on District Website. He also mentioned any questions or concerns to contact him directly.

BOARD COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Mr. Sarro

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 6:37 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso

Business Administrator/Board Secretary