

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes October 18, 2021

Board President Carla Fernandes called the Regular Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday October 18, 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. Sarro
Ms. Perez

Absent: Ms. Lopez, Ms. Pinto

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

OATH OF OFFICE NEW BOARD MEMBER

Paul Vizzuso Board Secretary, administered Oath of Office to Jennifer Perez

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Carla Fernandes nominated Danielle Sarro, all in favor

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Fernandes 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.

- Personnel – employment matters

Motion by: Ms. Sarro
Seconded by: Ms. Goncalves

All in favor

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 6:29 p.m.

Motion by: Ms. Goncalves
Seconded by: Ms. Sarro

All in favor

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public

THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

First day of Preschool

Full day preschool began October 1, 2021 as scheduled. Currently, we have 13 students attending preschool in East Newark and 11 attending at the Harrison location and 2 pending special education placements for November. Since the grant was only awarded this past September, we had very little time to hire staff, renovate the additional classroom space and purchase furniture and curriculum. As much as we tried to accommodate parents, due to limited space some students had to be placed in Harrison, contrary to parent preference. However, the vast majority of parents are pleased with their child's placement and thrilled with the opportunity to have a full-day program for the first time in East Newark.

Back to School Night

Our annual Back to School Night was held on September 23rd at both the East Newark and Harrison locations for the elementary and middle school students, respectively. Parents were invited to visit their child's classroom and teachers and learn about educational expectations. To ensure safety protocols and social distancing, only one parent per family was invited and siblings were asked to remain home.

Preschool Parent Meeting

Following our Back to School Night, Dr. Bagolie, Mrs. Pereira and I met with our preschool parents to explain the details of our full-day program including the schedule, curriculum, teaching strategies, and attendance expectations. Every parent was also individually contacted prior to this meeting to respond to any questions or concerns. To appreciate the scope of the full-day program I encourage you to visit our website where the presentation is posted.

Halloween 2021

This year, Halloween promises to be a thrilling event. The PTO is planning a Halloween dance for our students on October 29 at the middle school. Two "Trunk or Treats" are planned; one sponsored by the PTO on October 30 and the second provided by the Town of East Newark on October 31.

Our annual Halloween Parade will be held on Friday, October 29 for our Elementary School students. We plan on walking to Veterans' Park by way of North Third Street, and then parading around the perimeter of the park.

Shared 911

To ensure the highest level of safety for students and staff, we are enrolled in Shared 911 which is a web based service that allows instant communication between all school certified staff. On September 28th our staff participated in a webinar that reviewed our safety protocols and the use of the application. Not only does the app provide intra-communications with staff during an emergency event, it also is directly connected to the police department.

Covid-19 Outbreak in Kindergarten

On October 1st I was notified that one of our kindergarten students tested positive for Covid-19. Complying with the guidance from [The Road Back](#), the class was quarantined for 10 days and received virtual instruction. Since then, we sent a letter to remind parents that children exposed to Covid-19, or showing symptoms should remain home.

Additional Kindergarten Class

The outbreak in kindergarten is a stark reminder that this virus remains a threat to our health and effective education. With 25 students in kindergarten, social distancing is very difficult. To alleviate this concern, I am recommending we open a second kindergarten class which will allow us to maintain greater social distance and minimize future disruptions. The new class sizes will be 15 in the main classroom and 10 in the second.

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A kindergarten parent meeting will be planned for 10/21/2021 to introduce the new teacher and answer any parent questions with a tentative start date of 10/25/2021. Parents will be informed of the new placements prior to this meeting. Our second kindergarten teacher will be funded through the ESSA grant. The room itself will be located in the current CST and Supervisor’s offices.

Covid-19 Vaccines for Students

With parent permission, seven students, all 12 and older, received the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on September 30 at the middle school. The Kearny Health Department will be returning on October 21 to provide a second dose to the same students.

Week of Respect

I recently posted on Twitter two pictures representing the students and staff at each school dedicated to the Week of Respect which was recognized the week of October 4. These are veritable reminders for the entire community that mutual respect, regardless of race, creed, gender, color or sexual orientation is essential to our school community.

Personnel

Ms. Bethzaida Lugo will be approved as the second kindergarten teacher to be paid through ESSA grant funds.

Our preschool requires a Master Teacher and Preschool Intervention Referral Team (PIRT) coordinator. For these responsibilities, I am recommending Ms. Libna Artieda who will begin in that capacity effective 10/22/2021 paid for through the PEA grant.

Entitlement Grants

I would like to provide a brief summary of the entitlement grants we have received this year, particularly regarding the amount of money for each grant and the allowable uses. Please keep in mind that since the grants are extremely multi-layered and complex, this is only a summary.

This year we have received the following six entitlement grants: ESSER-II, ESEA, ARP-ESSER, ARP-IDEA, IDEA, and School Security.

<i>Grant</i>	<i>Amount allocated</i>	<i>Allowable Uses</i>
ESSER-II	\$858,202	Consists of three sub grants: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental, Accelerated Learning and Mental Health Support.
ESEA	\$278,521	Consists of four sub grants which hold all students to high academic standards to prepare them for success in college and careers with a particular focus on low performing schools and schools with achievement gaps.
ARP-ESSER	\$1,717,406	Includes funding for accelerated learning and educator professional development and support, evidenced based summer enrichment, activities beyond the school day and mental health support and staffing.
ARP- IDEA	\$13,292	These funds are provided for special education students to help remediate and support their needs as we recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and to help recoup lost educational benefits. The grants assist

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		schools in providing FAPE for children with disabilities ages 3 through 21.
IDEA	\$64,766	The combined application allows local education agencies the opportunity to address the needs of all special education students in all need areas.
School Security	\$20,000	This grant supports Alyssa’s Law compliance; and after certification of Alyssa’s Law compliance, other security improvements as identified in N.J.A.C 6A:26A-4.4(c)
Total	<u>\$2,952,187</u>	

Winter for Kids

In addition to the entitlement grants explained above, we received a \$83,750 competitive grant from *Winter for Kids* which will provide winter skiing and snowboarding for 190 students between the months of January through March 2022. This grant includes classes in downhill skiing, cross country skiing and snowboarding. Equipment, gear and meals are included. The ARP-ESSER grant will pay for chaperones and transportation. This activity may take place on Saturdays to comply with our ARP-ESSER requirement for educational and enrichment experiences beyond the school day/week.

Band

In addition to *Amazon Future Engineers*, our curriculum is being expanded to include band and chorus. Our instruments will include; flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. Rehearsals will take place after-school for grades 4 and 5 and during music classes. With a lot of practice, we hope to have a band concert in the spring.

Gifted & Talented (G&T)

Our Gifted & Talented program will provide enrichment opportunities for qualified students. These students will begin the school day at 7:30 a.m. on a rotating basis for enrichment in the content areas of math and English. The G&T program will also provide enrichment classes in areas such as gardening club, public speaking, visual and performing arts.

After School Remediation and Enrichment

After School Remediation began today, October 18. We are planning to include an additional day for clubs and recreational activities. Clubs will include: band and chorus (as mentioned above), dance, art, and sports activities.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R09.1038.21 – 09.1066.21

Motion by: Mr. Sarro
Seconded by: Ms. Ditchkus

ROLL CALL: YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN: Ms. Perez R10-1067-21

- 10-1067-21** Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2021 Executive and Regular Meeting Minutes
- 10-1068-21** Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- 10-1069-21** Approve Bill List for October 2021
- 10-1070-21** Acknowledge Second Reading of Policies
- 10-1071-21** Approve Teachers for ESEA School-Wide: BSR/DSR/ASR Program
- 10-1072-21** Approve Securities Grant
- 10-1073-21** Amend Agenda Items
- 10-1074-21** Approve Gordian Contractors for Bathroom Renovations

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- 10-1075-21** Approve USA Architects for Professional Services
- 10-1076-21** Approve Derris Brown, Teacher in Charge at the Middle School
- 10-1077-21** Approve Colby Thall - Rutgers Practicum Student Internship Agreement
- 10-1078-21** Approve Bethzaida Lugo, Kindergarten Teacher
- 10-1079-21** Approve Libna Artieda, Master Teacher and PIRT Facilitator
- 10-1080-21** Approve Bryan Yllescas, Part-Time Custodian
- 10-1081-21** Amend Agenda Item 06-975-21 for Maria Cuenca
- 10-1082-21** Approve Karen Rivadeneira as Assistant Soccer Coach
- 10-1083-21** Accept Hannah Rivera's Resignation
- 10-1084-21** Approve School Physician, Ponciano Palmieri Contract
- 10-1085-21** Approve Go Guardian Quote
- 10-1086-21** Approve Golden Key Holdings Quote
- 10-1087-21** Approve Copy Machine Lease for Holy Cross
- 10-1088-21** Approve Frank Nascimento to Provide Professional Development in Mental Health
- 10-1089-21** Approve Education Services Consultant Agreement for Speech Services
- 10-1090-21** Approve Termination Derron Munn
- 10-1091-21** Approve Job Description Master Teacher/PIRT Coordinator
- 10-1092-21** Approve Trip to Dorney Park
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- 10-1067-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following minutes, as submitted.
- September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
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- 10-1068-21** **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 September 30, 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 September 30, 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 September 30, 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 September 30, 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.
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- 10-1069-21** **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 \$377,926.58 for October 14, 2021 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.
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- 10-1070-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, acknowledges the second reading of the following policies:

Second Reading

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Policy	Status	Regulation	Title	Summary
2422	Mandated – Revised		Comp. Health and P.E.	Includes the requirements of six new statues
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
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	S.D. must disclose fraud involving

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			Disclosures	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 option
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> ”

10-1071-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following staff for ESEA School-Wide: BSR/DSR/ASR Program, effective October 5, 2021.

<i>Teachers/Staff:</i>	<i>Paraprofessionals:</i>
<i>Machcinski, Joyce</i>	<i>Rios, Patricia</i>
<i>Garcia, Evelyn</i>	<i>DiMatteo, Nora</i>
<i>Jablonsky, Vanessa</i>	<i>Rivadeneira, Tamara</i>
<i>Lugo, Bethzaida</i>	<i>Ubilla, Elsie</i>
<i>Borisuk, Maria</i>	<i>Kazdin, Matthew</i>
<i>Perkins, Jennifer</i>	<i>Medina, Sofia</i>

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<i>Herskovitz, Odemaris</i>	<i>Yllescas, Nydia</i>
<i>Padilla, JiannaMarie</i>	<i>Martillo, Margarita</i>
<i>Rivera, Hannah</i>	<i>Bentancourth, Diana</i>
<i>Brown, Derris</i>	<i>Dos Santos, Cristina</i>
<i>Castro, Jorge</i>	<i>Aliaga, Maria</i>
<i>Costanzo, Carol</i>	<i>Hempstad, Ashley</i>
<i>Fullerton, Ingrid</i>	<i>Duran, Sandra</i>
<i>Luniewski, Isabella</i>	<i>Rueda Duque, Elida</i>
<i>Feliciano, Sheila</i>	
<i>DeLaMata, Eliana</i>	
<i>Fronjian, Brandon</i>	
<i>Jackson, Margaret</i>	
<i>Colaiacovo, John</i>	
<i>Rugani, Jeanine</i>	
<i>Munn, Derron</i>	
<i>Acuna, Nocilja</i>	
<i>Fullerton, Melissa</i>	
<i>Cedeno, Michael</i>	
<i>Vera, Nathaly</i>	

10-1072-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the School Security Grant for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$20,000. The District acknowledges the availability of local funds in case the total estimated costs of the proposal work exceeds the school district’s grant.

10-1073-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends the following resolutions to read as follows for the 2021-2022 school year:

Resolution# 04-923-21

Elsie Ubilla’s previously approved salary and single health benefits to be fully funded by the PEA Grant

Nathaly Vera’s previously approved salary and single health benefits to be partially funded by the PEA Grant

Resolution # 04-924-21

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Joyce Machcinski's previously approved salary and family health benefits to be fully funded by the PEA Grant

Resolution# 04-936-21

Veronique Pereira's previously approved salary and family health benefits to be partially funded by the PEA Grant

Resolution# 09-1051-21

Elida Rueda Duque's previously approved salary and single health benefits to be partially funded by the PEA Grant

- 10-1074-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Gordian Contractors to renovate the East Newark School bathroom under ESCNJ State Approved Coop #65MCESCCPSDS for the amount of \$74,525.21 to be funded with ARP-ESSER grant funds.
- 10-1075-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves USA Architects for Professional Services rendered for the East Newark 2nd floor bathroom renovations in the amount of \$7,500 plus \$5,000 for DOE application submission. Total cost \$12,500 to be funded with ARP-ESSER grant funds.
- 10-1076-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Derris Brown as Teacher in Charge for the 2021-2022 school year at the East Newark Middle School at \$100 per day as needed in addition to her salary.
- 10-1077-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Colby Thall, Rutgers University Practicum Student Internship Agreement.
- 10-1078-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Bethzaida Lugo, Elementary Teacher, (BA – 1 \$43,993, pro-rated) effective, October 19, 2021. Salary and health benefits to be funded by the PEA Grant. Single benefits, as per CBA. *employment subject to criminal history review.
- 10-1079-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Libna Artieda, Master Teacher and PIRT Facilitator, (\$60,000 annually, pro-rated) effective October 22, 2021. Single benefits, as per attached contract. A onetime \$2,000 signing bonus, payable by June 2021. To be funded by the PEA Grant.
- 10-1080-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Bryan Yllescas, Part-Time Custodian at a rate of \$13 per hour, 20 hours per week, no health benefits.
- 10-1081-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends agenda item 06-975-21 for Maria Cuenca, Custodian to reflect a rate of \$13 per hour, effective immediately due to minimum wage increase as of January 1st in the State of New Jersey.
- 10-1082-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Karen Rivadeneira as Assistant Soccer Coach for the 2021-2022 school year with a stipend of \$600 pending receipt of Substitute Teaching Certification.
- 10-1083-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Hannah Rivera, Elementary Teacher effective December 23, 2021.

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- 10-1084-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contract for the School Physician, Dr. Ponciano Palmieri as attached for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 10-1085-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Go Guardian quote in the amount of \$5,037.50 for computer monitoring software.
- 10-1086-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Golden Key Holdings to install camera security system at the East Newark School in the amount of \$17,109.90 to be funded with the Security Grant or ESSER II grant funds.
- 10-1087-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Copier Machine Lease as attached for the middle school.
- 10-1088-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Frank Nascimento to provide professional development in mental health to address the social emotional needs of the community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic at a rate of \$1,000 per workshop, not to exceed \$4,000.
- 10-1089-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Education Services Consultant Agreement for Speech Services for the 2021-2022 school year as attached.
- 10-1090-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, terminates the employment of Derron Munn with the District pursuant to the employment contract and the issuance of the sixty (60) day notification provided to him; his last day of work shall be Friday December 17, 2021.
- 10-1091-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the job description for Master Teacher/PIRT Coordinator as attached.
- 10-1092-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the East Newark Leadership Council trip to Dorney Park on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at a cost of \$1,889, to be paid from the Student Activities Account.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Goncalves asked for an update regarding the Bond for building renovation and parking lot. Dr. Corbett recommended two spots for the buses so that the buses can be close to the building, also requested a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the exterior building renovation.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

East Newark resident complained about daughter moved to Holy Cross, wanted her to stay in East Newark. Dr. Corbett stated if an opening develops in East Newark she would be moved back.

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BOARD COMMENTS

Ad Hoc Parking Lot Committee was established, committee members Carla Fernandez, Laura Ditchkus, Danielle Sarro

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 7:09 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary