

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes December 22, 2021

Board President Carla Fernandes called the Regular Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Wednesday December 22, 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. Sarro, Vice President
Ms. Ditchkus
Ms. Lopez
Ms. Perez

Absent: Ms. Pinto

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

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:18 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.

- Contract negotiations with East Newark Borough Hall, parking lot spaces

Motion by: Ms. Sarro
Seconded by: Ms. Lopez

All in favor

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 6:39 p.m.

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

All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public

START STRONG ASSESSMENT RESULTS

- Dr. Corbett reported on the Start Strong Assessment Results

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THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Covid -19

Over the past week, several members of our school community have tested positive for Covid-19. The Holiday Concert last Thursday makes these positive cases a particular concern. In an abundance of caution, instruction from December 20 to December 23 will be virtual.

Delayed Opening

Due to heavy rain and the threat of flooding on October 26, our school day opening was delayed until 10:00 a.m. Fortunately, all teachers and students arrived safely and there was no apparent flooding or water damage in either school. I encourage you to following me on Twitter and Instagram where I post school closings and delayed openings.

Personnel

As announced at the October 18 Board Meeting, Hannah Rivera resigned effective December 23, 2021. Her replacement is Victoria Georges who has over 11 years of experience teaching. Ms. George began on December 13. In addition, Ms. Jane Fazio-Villeda is filling the empty special education teaching position, replacing Mr. Munn. The original resolution approving these teachers on the November 12 agenda is moved to this evening's agenda. Their approval will be retroactive.

East Newark School – Mold Remediation

As previously explained, our floor and wall tiles in the basement of the East Newark School were lifted as a result of summer rainfall. Upon further inspection, we suspect that mold may be present. I am recommending Garden State Environmental to perform a mold investigation. The deductible for any remediation is \$100,000. According to our architect, the probable underlying cause of the possible mold is a poorly performing building envelope which needs to be refurbished. I remind the board that this project is “shovel ready” and the only remaining impediment is the funding source.

District Goals

The district goals have been updated and posted on the website (https://eastnewarkschool.org/superintendent/district_goals). Since these goals are the framework for administrative decisions, I encourage our board members to review this document and refer any questions directly to me.

Broad Voice Phones

New Broad Voice Phones have been installed at the Elementary School. With the older phones replaced, we are now able to integrate the calling and intercom systems between the Elementary and Middle Schools. However, some glitches remain and I am working with the vendor to address these concerns.

Preschool

Our preschool committee met on November 11 to discuss the imminent enrollment of a large number of preschool disabled students. Currently, nine of our twenty-four preschool students are classified. We are likely to have two additional disabled preschool students, making the total eleven of our twenty-six general education students disabled. Four students are on the waiting list and require screening to determine eligibility for preschool disabled services. Any additional early intervention students will legally require placement. To address this need, we intend to open a third preschool class at Holy Cross in Harrison. Although the original date was January 18, we are not likely to meet that goal. At this time, we plan on funding this through ESSERS II and Title I. I will be working with the Pastor, Fr. John Carlos to negotiate a revised lease.

Send / Receive Agreement

On November 23, Paul Vizzuso and I met with Mr. Michael Pichowitz, Harrison Assistant B.A. / Board Council and Mr. Daniel Choffo, School Business Administrator, both from the Harrison School District to

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renew the Send/Receive Agreement. The Agreement reflects a tuition increase not to exceed two percent annually and is extended from seven to ten years.

SEEDS

Our seventh grade students welcomed Aaron Tucker from SEEDS on October 28. Aaron explained to our students that SEEDS is an organization that facilitates and prepares students for acceptance in some of the most prestigious private high schools in the country. Students accepted into SEEDS typically receive scholarships covering almost the entire cost of tuition, room and board. Since 2018, East Newark has successfully guided three of our graduates to SEEDS. These students are now attending very prominent high schools and can look forward to a rewarding college experience. This year, we are hoping that several of our current seventh grade students are accepted. As of now, seven students are applying.

Friday Volunteers

Many of our students struggle to complete homework assignments and projects. Failure to complete these important assignments may adversely affect their grade. To address this, we will be reinstating our middle school "Friday Volunteers." This will provide additional time and support for students to complete homework, classwork, or assessments on Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Absences

In an effort to support and help remediate student absences, letters were sent home to parents of students who have accumulated more than 5 unexcused absences in the first marking period. Our hope is that parents in need of assistance will reach out to communicate any events that may be preventing daily school attendance and to address the importance of attending school consistently in order to ensure that students are meeting the daily attendance requirements as set forth by the State and the Department of Education.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

All parents were invited to meet with their child's teachers during conferences from November 17th to November 19th. Based on the high turnout of parents, the evening was a success.

After School Snack

Through the School Nutrition Program, we are now able to offer a snack to students participating in the After School Program. This is an added incentive for our hungry students to continue learning after 3:00 p.m.

Donations for the Poor

Our "Socktober" drive resulted in the collection of hundreds of personal hygienic items which will be donated to the poor. On November 16, the Leadership Council presented part of the collection to Holy Cross where it will be distributed to residents in need. Part of the donation was also delivered to Apostle House, a shelter for homeless women and their children. After the successful "Socktober" collection, the Leadership Council collected items for our Thanksgiving food drive. These food items were donated to local food pantries. Our coat drive is now underway.

Dorney Park

At 1:00 p.m. on October 23, students from our middle school leadership council departed for Dorney Park. and returned about 10:00 p.m. They enjoyed the Halloween themed trip and returned safely with no incidences.

Halloween Dance & Parade

The Halloween Dance and Parade were great successes. Students marched through the streets of East Newark to Veterans Park and later in the evening participated two dances that provided loads of spooky fun. The PTO and Leadership Council were instrumental in planning these events. Thank you!

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Veterans Day

To recognize Veterans Day, middle school students joined the Harrison community on November 11 in Veterans Park. Many students (Harrison and East Newark) attended, along with the members of the community and the wonderful Veterans who served our country.

Turkey Trot

Our “Turkey Trot” took place on November 23 at 2:00 p.m. at West Hudson Park. Prizes of turkeys, gift cards (provided by Shoprite) Thanksgiving baskets (provided by the PTO) and metals were awarded to the winners. Students and staff were thrilled to see so many from our community in attendance, including Jennifer Perez from our board of education, many parents along with Mayor Grilo accompanied by Ms. Zincavage and Ms. Diaz

Winter4kids

Students will be participating in three winter activity trips on Saturdays at the Winter4kids Activity Center in Vernon, NJ. The elementary school students in grades 1-5 will attend on February 19, 26, 2022, and March 5, 2022, and middle students will attend on March 12, 19 & 26, 2022. All equipment, meals, and attire (except gloves) are provided. Each student will have two sessions of snowboarding, skiing and cross country lessons provided by the same instructional coach at each visit. We have received a grant that will cover the majority of the cost for the excursion and the bussing. The district will pay \$25 per student out of the \$450 per student participation cost and we have a bus grant allotment from Winter4kids in the amount of \$3,000. The additional funds needed for participation, busing, and chaperones will come from our ARP-ESSERS Grant. We will be leaving East Newark at 7:30AM and will expect to arrive back to the elementary school by 5:30pm.

Educator of the Year

I would like to congratulate our Educators of the Year; Mrs. Isabella Luniewski from the middle school, and Mrs. Odemaris Herskovitz from the elementary school. I thank our panel of teachers, parents and administrators for sifting through the nominations to identify our successful finalists.

Instagram

To provide timely district information to more parents and residents, I have opened an Instagram account. I intend to feed information to our constituents on both Instagram and Twitter. I encourage you to follow both.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R12-1093-21 – 12-1123-21

Motion by: Mr. Ditchkus

Seconded by: Ms. Sarro

ROLL CALL: YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN:

- 12-1093-21** Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2021 Executive and Regular Meeting Minutes
- 12-1094-21** Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- 12-1095-21** Approve Transfers
- 12-1096-21** Approve Bill List
- 12-1097-21** Approve Sending/Receiving Agreement with the Harrison BOE
- 12-1098-21** Approve Joint Transportation Agreement
- 12-1099-21** Approve Tuition Contracts
- 12-1100-21** Approve Tuition Contract
- 12-1101-21** Acknowledge First Reading of Policies
- 12-1102-21** Approve Submission of 5 Year Preschool Program Operational Plan
- 12-1103-21** Approve the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER Application Submission
- 12-1104-21** Approve Faculty Salaries to the ESSA Grant
- 12-1105-21** Approve Garden State Environment (GSE) for Mold Investigation

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- 12-1106-21 Amend Resolution
- 12-1107-21 Amend Resolution
- 12-1108-21 Approve Employment of Victoria Georges
- 12-1109-21 Approve Employment of Jane Fazio-Villeda
- 12-1110-21 Approve Nydia Yllescas as Paraprofessional
- 12-1111-21 Approve Trudy F. Bier, PT Services
- 12-1112-21 Approve Dr. Kavita Sinha, Pediatric Neurologist
- 12-1113-21 Approve Brandon Fronjian, Basketball Coach
- 12-1114-21 Approve Karen Rivadeneira, Assistant Basketball Coach
- 12-1115-21 Accept Maria Aliaga's Resignation
- 12-1116-21 Accept Janet Gamarra's Resignation
- 12-1117-21 Accept Brigitte Goncalves' Resignation
- 12-1118-21 Approve "Turkey Trot"
- 12-1119-21 Approve Disposal of Obsolete Smartboards
- 12-1120-21 Approve Negotiations with Holy Cross
- 12-1121-21 Approve Performance Agreements
- 12-1122-21 Approve Friday After School Volunteer Program
- 12-1123-21 Approve Friday After School Volunteer Program Staff Members

BOARD COMMENT

None

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R 12-1093-21 – 12-1123-21

Motion by: Ms. Lopez
Seconded by: Ms. Sarro

ROLL CALL: YES 5 NO 0

12-1093-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following minutes, as submitted.

- October 18, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes
- October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

12-1094-21 **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 October 31, 2021 (on file Board office), November 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 October 31, 2021 (on file Board Office), November 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 October 31, 2021 and November 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 October 31, 2021 and November 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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- 12-1095-21** **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 October 31, 2021 & November 30, 2021.
- 12-1096-21** **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 \$885,289.18 the board are made available following this meeting.
- 12-1097-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Sending/Receiving Agreement for students in grades 9-12 with the Harrison Board of Education as attached.
- 12-1098-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 Joint Transportation Agreement with the Host District Kearny Board of Education in the amount of \$15,600 transporting two (2) Special Ed. Students to YCS Sawtelle Learning Center, in Montclair, NJ.
- 12-1099-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 Tuition Contracts with the Harrison Board of Education for the following students.
- Student# 1460600920 yearly cost \$14,640
 - Student# 6947089492 yearly cost \$8,640
 - Student# 3446040054 yearly cost \$8,640
- 12-1100-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2021-2022 Tuition Contract with Sawtelle Learning Center for student# 6406190387 at a yearly cost of \$64,092.60 (pro-rated).
- 12-1101-21** **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
1648.13	Mandated - New		School Employee Vaccination Requirements	Addresses E.O. 253 regarding vaccination and testing
1648.14	Mandated – New		Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID -19	Provide guidance for developing local protocols
2425	Mandated – New		Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	Provides language regarding the 180 day requirement
5751	Mandated – Revised		Sexual Harassment of Students	Includes language regarding detailed

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				procedures
5751	Mandated – Revised	5751	Sexual Harassment of Students	Requires all reports to be investigated

12-1102-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the 5 Year Preschool Program Operational Plan as attached.

12-1103-21 **Be it Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER application submission in the following amounts:

ESSER	\$1,717,406
Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant	\$50,000
Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant	\$40,000
Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant	\$40,000
NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant	\$45,000

12-1104-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following faculty salaries to be charged to the 2021-2022 ESSA grant.

	Title I	Title II
Jeanine Rugani	\$69,947	-0-
Ingrid Fullerton	\$61,867	-0-
Bethzaida Lugo	\$21,650	\$15,743

12-1105-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves GSE - Garden State Environmental to perform mold investigation at the East Newark School in the amount of \$1,850.

12-1106-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend resolution number 10-1079-21 to read as follows:

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 **stipend** in the amount of \$2,000, payable by June 2022. The \$60,000 to be funded by the PEA Grant, the \$2,000 stipend with operating funds.

12-1107-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amends agenda item# 08-1009-21 of the ESEA Consolidated application submitted to include carryover funding in the following amounts:

ESEA	FY22	Carryover	Total
Title 1A	\$228,133	\$93,942	\$32,2075
Title 2A	\$26,165	\$23,489	\$26,165
Title IV Part A	\$17,018	\$2,571	\$19,589

12-1108-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves hiring Victoria Georges, Elementary Teacher (MA Step 11, \$58,346 pro-rated) effective, December 13, 2021. Single benefits, as per CBA. *employment subject to criminal history review.

Be It Further Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education approve a one-time

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stipend in the amount of \$2,000, payable after the successful completion of the 2021-2022 school year.

- 12-1109-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves hiring Jane Fazio-Villeda, Special Education Teacher (MA Step 15, \$62,718 pro-rated) effective, December 6, 2021. Single benefits, as per CBA.
*employment subject to criminal history review.
Be It Further Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education approve a one-time stipend in the amount of \$2,000, payable after the successful completion of the 2021-2022 school year.
- 12-1110-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Nydia Yllescas as Full Time Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year, effective September 1, 2021 at a rate of \$13.50 per hour, with single health benefits.
- 12-1111-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Trudy F. Bier at a rate of \$120 per hour for PT services for the 2021-2022 school year, effective November 1, 2021.
- 12-1112-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Dr. Kavita Sinha, pediatric neurologist, to conduct neurodevelopmental/neurological child study team evaluations for the 2021-2022 school at a rate of \$500 per evaluation.
- 12-1113-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Brandon Fronjian as Basketball Coach with a stipend of \$869.77 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 12-1114-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Karen Rivadeneira as Assistant Basketball Coach with a stipend of \$600 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- 12-1115-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Maria Aliaga, Paraprofessional effective December 23, 2021.
- 12-1116-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Janet Gamarra, Part Time Bus Driver effective December 23, 2021.
- 12-1117-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Brigitte Goncalves, Board Trustee effective December 1, 2021.
- 12-1118-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the East Newark Leadership Council “Turkey Trot” to be held Tuesday, November 23 from 12:15 to 3:00 p.m. at West Hudson Park (Rain date November 24).
- 12-1119-21** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following list of smartboards and projectors to be discarded, as

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they are obsolete.

SmartBoard Serial #	Projector
SMART SPNL-6065-V2	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART Board E70	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART Board E70	N/A
SMART	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART SPNL-6065-V2	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART SPNL-6065-V2	EPSON Powerlite X27
SMART SPNL - 6065-V2	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART Board M600	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt
SMART	EPSON Powerlite 420
SMART Board E70	N/A
SMART	EPSON Powerlite 83Vt

12-1120-21 **WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2020 this Board entered into a lease with the Newark Archdiocese for the lease of space at the Holy Cross School for the purpose of educational classrooms and administrative offices; and
WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has undertaken an analysis of the available classroom space at the East Newark Public School building; and
WHEREAS, the Superintendent, in the best interests of the students of the Borough of East Newark, has determined that the East Newark Public School building has insufficient space to support the current and future population of the District’s students for the delivery of

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education; and

WHEREAS, the Newark Archdiocese has additional classroom space available for lease at the Holy Cross School.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby authorizes the Superintendent to begin negotiations with the Newark Archdiocese for leasing additional educational classroom space in the best interests of the District's students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution take effect immediately.

12-1121-21 Be It Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following performance agreements for the Holiday Concert at a fee of \$300 per performer.

- Ian Kenselaar
- Charles Tyler Jr.
- Andre Gabriel Marquez
- Fernando Torres

12-1122-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Friday Afterschool Volunteer Program for the 2021-2022 school year.

12-1123-21 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff members for the Friday Afterschool Volunteer Program at their contractual rate.

- E. DeLaMata
- T. Rivadeneira
- E. Ubilla
- C. DosSantos

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Perez asked what is considered old business, Mr. Roth, Board Attorney explained anything that might have been discussed in prior meetings.

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:55 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.

- Private student matter

Motion by: Ms. Sarro

Seconded by: Ms. Ditchkus

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All in favor

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 7:07 p.m.

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

All in favor

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

The Board wished everyone Happy Holidays!

ADJOURNMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the East Newark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. Paul Vizzuso
Business Administrator/Board Secretary