

Board of Education of East Newark, Hudson County, NJ
Regular Meeting Minutes January 31, 2022

Board President Carla Fernandes called the Regular Meeting of the East Newark Board of Education to order on Monday January 31, 2022 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
Ms. Pinto

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Richard Corbett, Superintendent
Allan Roth, Board Attorney

INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:22 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.

- Attorney client privilege/contracts/personnel

Motion by: Ms. Ditchkus
Seconded by: Ms. Lopez

All in favor

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION – 7:00 p.m.

Motion by: Ms. Ditchkus
Seconded by: Ms. Perez

All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

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THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Covid -19 Testing

We continue to test our students and staff weekly for Covid-19. We understand that the guidance no longer recommends testing for those who have contracted the virus in the past 90 days. However, out of an abundance of caution, we will continue weekly tests of all students and staff. Currently, we have only one student quarantined due to Covid -19. Unfortunately, since a majority of preschool students and staff tested positive, preschool was closed the week of January 10. Preschool classes resumed on Tuesday, January 18.

Delayed Opening

Due to a heavy rain snow mix, on January 20, our school opening was delayed until 10:00 a.m. Fortunately, all teachers and students arrived safely. As a reminder, school closures and delayed openings are posted on Twitter and Instagram.

Preschool Expansion

We continue to consider the space available at Holy Cross to address our needs for expanded full-day preschool. I will be meeting with the Pastor of Holy Cross (Fr. John), the architect (Peter Campisano) and our business administrator (Paul Vizzuso) the first week in March regarding use of the space currently available in the basement.

Friday Volunteers

Our middle school *Friday Volunteers* kicked off on January 21 with eight students volunteering. As explained, this is an opportunity for students to complete homework assignments, projects and to make up tests or quizzes.

Basketball

On January 18, we hosted the Washington Middle School Basketball team. The girls played at 4:00 p.m. and the boys at 5:00 p.m. To ensure safety and provide for social distancing; spectators were limited; admission was by ticket only. Face masks were required and hand sanitizer was provided. Unfortunately, we lost both games. However, our students competed with a lot of heart. We also lost to Kearny, who we played on January 24. The agenda includes the complete basketball schedule.

Winter4kids

The Winter4Kids organization has been experiencing difficulties with staffing due to COVID and as such they have requested that we push up our dates for our ski trips in order to offer the best experience to our students. The field trip dates are:

02/12/2022	2/19/2022	02/26/2022	03/05/2022	3/12/2022	3/19/2022
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Kindness Week-February 14-18

During Kindness Week, and with the involvement of the Leadership Council, the elementary school is encouraging students and staff to put kindness first and share it everywhere they go. They Have planned activities that promote this sentiment through the week such as:

Caring Monday: Wear red and write a card to show you care.

Kindness Tuesday: Wear a yellow shirt and do something kind for a friend

Service Wednesday: Wear a superhero shirt and write a thank note to first responders

Thankful Thursday: Wear pink and white and show your appreciation to your school community

Unity Friday: The school will work together to build a kindness tree as a culminating activity to the week's events.

Read Across America

Each year, National Read Across America Day is celebrated during the first week in March. It is an event facilitated in schools and designed to encourage children to read. To that end, the elementary school will be

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hosting a Scholastic Book Fair and will be inviting community leaders to the school to read to the students. Additional events will take place throughout the week including an assembly performed by the Pushcart Payers entitled Stone Soup & Other Stories.

School Bus Sale

As you know, we will be selling the smaller of our two school buses and purchasing a mini-van that can accommodate both light cargo and adult passengers and does not require a CDL. Without a bus driver, our food service employees and the middle school meals must be transported between schools several times a day by the central office staff. The lack of parking in East Newark makes it impractical to depart in the morning and not be able to park upon return. Currently, I pick up the food service worker in the morning with breakfast for the student. She walks back to E.N.P.S. Either Evelyn and Nicole then pick her up from E.N.P.S. with lunch and drive her back to East Newark at the conclusion of lunch.

Kitchen Renovation at the Middle School

To alleviate the need to transport food between schools, we will need to update the middle school kitchen as per the Harrison Department of Health. This will require us to purchase and install: a three-part sink, a hand wash sink, and a grease trap. We will also need to service the stove, remove cabinets and replace them with steam tables.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR BOARD COMMENT R1-1127-22 – 1-1154-22

Motion by: Mr. Ditchkus

Seconded by: Ms. Perez

ROLL CALL: YES 6 NO 0 ABSTAIN:

- 1-1127-22 Approval of Minutes – Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes
- 1-1128-22 Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- 1-1129-22 Approve Transfers
- 1-1130-22 Approve Bill List
- 1-1131-22 Approve Application for GovDeals.com
- 1-1132-22 Approve Agreement with Passaic County Cooperative Program
- 1-1133-22 Approve HIB Self-Assess for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights
- 1-1134-22 Approve Submission of the 3 Year ELL Plan
- 1-1135-22 Approve Staff Salaries and Health Benefits to be Charged to ARP-ESSER
- 1-1136-22 Approve Tuition Contract
- 1-1137-22 Approve Brooke Oliveras as School Interventionist
- 1-1138-22 Approve Evelyn Garcia as Elementary Teacher
- 1-1139-22 Approve Jane Fazio for ESEA School-Wide: BSR/DSR/ASR Program
- 1-1140-22 Approve Victoria Georges for ESEA School-Wide: BSR/DSR/ASR Program
- 1-1141-22 Accept Resignation to Retire of Patricia Rios
- 1-1142-22 Approve Scholastic Book Fair
- 1-1143-22 Approve Disposal of Obsolete Phones
- 1-1144-22 Approve Basketball Schedule and Transportation
- 1-1145-22 Accepts Community Foundation of New Jersey Warm Jacket Fund Grant Award
- 1-1146-22 Approve Winter4kids Participation and Field Trips
- 1-1147-22 Approve Winter4kids Chaperones for Field Trips
- 1-1148-22 Approve Durham Transportation
- 1-1149-22 Approve Assembly by Pushcart Players
- 1-1150-22 Approve Policy Second Reading
- 1-1151-22 Approve Revised Safer Return Plan
- 1-1152-22 Recognition of Patricia Rios' Retirement
- 1-1153-22 Approve 2022-2023 Budget Calendar

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1-1154-22 Approve Board meeting date changes

RESOLUTION BY BLOCK VOTE R1-1127-22 – 1-1154-22

Motion by: Ms. Ditchkus

Seconded by: Ms. Perez

ROLL CALL: YES 6 NO 0

1-1127-22 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following minutes, as submitted.

- December 22, 2021 Executive Session Minutes (1 & 2)
- December 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 10, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

1-1128-22 **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 December 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 December 31, 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 December 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 December 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.

1-1129-22 **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 December 31, 2021.

1-1130-22 **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 \$1,154,007.30 for January 20, 2022 is hereby approved and payment authorized as funds of the board are made available following this meeting.

1-1131-22 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the application to become a seller on GovDeals.com for the purpose to auction the 2010 Chevrolet Bus (VIN# 1GBHG31C181221769) as per Board resolution 1-1125-22.

1-1132-22 **1-1132-22 Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the application to become a member with the Passaic County Cooperative Pricing System #38PCCP for the purpose of selling the 2010 Chevrolet Bus (VIN# 1GBHG31C181221769) as per board resolution 1-1125-22.

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- 1-1133-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the HIB Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights as attached.
- 1-1134-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the submission of the 3 Year ELL Plan as attached.
- 1-1135-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following staff salaries and health benefits to be charged to the ARP-ESSER Grant for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Elida Rueda
 - Elsie Ubilla
 - Margarita Martillo
 - Sofia Medina
 - Nora DiMatteo
 - Matthew Kazdin
 - Nydia Yllescas
 - Cristina Dos Santos
 - Patricia Rios
 - Maria Aliaga
 - Ashley Hempstead
- 1-1136-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the 2021-2022 Tuition Contracts with the Special Services School District for the following student.
- Student# 5157456913 yearly cost \$43,020 (pro-rated)
- 1-1137-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves hiring Brooke Oliveras, School Interventionist (MA Step 14, \$61,625 pro-rated, paid through the ARP-ESSER grant) effective, March 14, 2022. 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 \$1,000, payable after the successful completion of the 2021-2022 school year, paid through the ESSER II Grant.
- 1-1138-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves hiring Evelyn Garcia, Elementary Teacher (BA Step 1, \$43,993 pro-rated, paid through the PEA grant) effective, January 1, 2021. Single benefits, as per CBA.
- 1-1139-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Jane Fazio for ESEA School-Wide: BSR/DSR/ASR Program, effective January 3, 2022. Paid through ESEA grant.
- 1-1140-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Victoria Georges for ESEA School-Wide: BSR/DSR/ASR Program, effective January 3, 2022. Paid through ESEA grant.

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- 1-1141-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts Patricia Rios’ resignation with regret to retire letter dated January 18, 2022.
- 1-1142-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Scholastic Book Fair at ENPS on February 28 to March 4, 2022.
- 1-1143-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the disposal of 25 obsolete Avaya phones.
- 1-1144-22** **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following basketball schedule for the 2021-200 school year:

DATE	WEEKDAY	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCATION
1/18/22	Tuesday	Vs. Harrison	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:00pm	East Newark Middle School (Holy Cross)
1/24/22	Thursday	@ Kearny	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:30pm	Lincoln Middle School, Kearny
1/26/22	Wednesday	@ Union Hill	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:00pm	Union Hill Middle School, Union City
1/28/22	Friday	@ Emerson	Boys – 4:00pm Girls – 5:00pm	Emerson Middle School, Union City
1/31/22	Monday	@ Teaneck	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:00pm	Teaneck Charter Middle School, Teaneck
2/1/22	Tuesday	Vs. Union Hill	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:00pm	East Newark Middle School (Holy Cross)
2/3/22	Thursday	Vs. Emerson	Boys – 4:00pm Girls – 5:00pm	East Newark Middle School (Holy Cross)
2/8/22	Tuesday	Vs. Kearny	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:30pm	East Newark Middle School (Holy Cross)
2/10/22	Thursday	@ Harrison	Girls – 4:00pm Boys – 5:00pm	Washington Middle School, Harrison

Be It Further Resolved, that the East Newark Board of Education approve the quote from

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US Coachways, in the amount of \$2,874.71 to provide transportation to and from basketball games.

1-1145-22 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the grant award of \$425 per participant up to 190 participants and a grant of \$3,000 to establish a ski activity club in the school from the Community Foundation of New Jersey Warm Jacket Fund.

1-1146-22 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the participation of students in grades 1-8 in the Winter4kids field trips at a subsidized rate of \$25 per student to be paid from the ARRP ESSERS grant on the following dates:

02/12/2022	2/19/2022	02/26/2022	03/05/2022	3/12/2022	3/19/2022
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1-1147-22 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following chaperones for the Winter4kids field trip to be paid out of the ARP ESSERS grant teachers at the ENEA negotiated rate and aides at contracted rate:

Artieda, Libna
Borisuk, Maria
Colaiacovo, John
Costeira, Nicole
Dos Santos, Cristina
Feliciano, Sheila
Fronjian, Brandon
Fullerton, Ingrid
Garcia, Evelyn
Georges, Victoria
Herskovitz, Odameris
Jablonsky, Vanessa
Jackson, Margaret
Lassalle, Evelyn
Lugo, Bethzaida
Padilla, JiannaMarie
Perkins, Jennifer
Rivadeneira, Karen
Rueda, Elisa

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Rugani, Jeanine

Vera, Nathaly

1-1148-22 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Durham Transportation in the amount of \$10, 837. 48. The sum of \$7, 837.48 to paid out of the ARP ESSERS grant and \$3,000 to paid out of the Community Foundation of New Jersey Warm Jacket Fund grant for the Winter4kids field trips on the following dates:

02/12/2022	2/19/2022	02/26/2022	03/05/2022	3/12/2022	3/19/2022
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1-1149-22 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the assembly by The Pushcart Players entitled: “Stone Soup and Other Stories” in the amount of \$1,525.00 payable through the ESSERS II grant.

1-1150-22 **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				
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 procedures
5751	Mandated – Revised	5751	Sexual Harassment of Students	Requires all reports to be investigated

1-1151-22 **Be It Resolved,** that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the revised *Safer Return Plan* as submitted.

1-1152-22 **A Resolution Honoring Patricia Rios Years of Service to the East Newark School District and Congratulating her on her Retirement.**

WHEREAS, Patricia Rios began her career in East Newark as a full-time school aide with the East Newark School in the year 2000; and

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WHEREAS, Patricia Rios' service and devotion to the children of East Newark have proven to be an enormous benefit to the East Newark School District and its residents in

numerous ways, all of which have contributed to the growth and well-being of the students in her care; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Rios, after having served the East Newark School District for 20 years has decided to retire from service; and

WHEREAS, the East Newark Board of Education believes that it is in the best interest of the Board and its residents to recognize, honor, and thank Patricia Rios for her years of devoted service to this district.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EAST NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE AND IT HEREBY IS ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the East Newark Board of Education, its Board of Trustees and its residents hereby congratulate Patricia Rios upon her retirement, thank her for 20 years of dedication to serving the community, and wish her well in all future endeavors.

1-1153-22 **Be It Resolved**, that the East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following budget calendar for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Budget.

- Monday February 28, 2022 Board approves the 2022-2023 tentative Fiscal Budget for submission to the County Executive Superintendent
- Friday March 4, 2022 Budget due to County Office
- Tuesday March 22, 2022 budget due to the Board of School Estimate
- Wednesday March 23, 2022 advertise the 2022-2023 Fiscal Budget
- Monday March 28, 2022 Public Hearing on Budget, Board approves final Budget for 2022-2023
- Friday April 8, 2022 last day for Board of School Estimate to adopt and certify budget
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1-1154-22 **Be It Resolved**, that East Newark Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following board meeting date changes to coincide with the budget calendar:

- February 14, 2022 change to February 28, 2022 at 6:15 pm
- March 14, 2022 change to March 28, 2022 at 6:15 pm

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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Motion by: Mr. Ditchkus

Seconded by: Ms. Sarro

BE IT RESOLVED, that with no further business to come before the East Newark Board of Education, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m., all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Paul Vizzuso".

R. Paul Vizzuso

Business Administrator/Board Secretary