



**CITY OF NEWARK – NEWARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LIAISON COMMITTEE**



City Council Chambers  
37101 Newark Boulevard, Newark, CA 94560

**MINUTES**

Monday, October 16, 2023

**A. ROLL CALL**

Acting Chair Nguyen called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Members present:

Committee Member Jorgens

Committee Member Thomas

Committee Member Collazo was noted absent.

**B. MINUTES**

**B.1 Approval of the January 23, 2023, minutes**

No one from the public requested to speak.

Committee Member Thomas moved, and Committee Member Jorgens seconded, to approve the January 23, 2023, minutes. The motion passed: 3 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**D.1 Presentation by Newark Library Manager Joe Stoner**

Newark Library Manager Joe Stoner gave a presentation on programs offered by the Newark Library based on the needs of students in the Newark Unified School District including a homework help program and a summer Youth English as a Second Language Program. The

mission of the library is to serve families that do not have other resources. The presentation is on file with the City Clerk.

In answer to Committee Member Thomas' question about getting information about summer programs to newcomers to the community, Mr. Stoner said they have attempted getting referrals from the Parent Partner Office. He will follow up.

## **D.2 Update on the State of the Newark Unified School District**

Superintendent DeLeon gave the presentation on the State of the Newark Unified School District (NUSD).

The NUSD is facing urgent challenges such as the nationwide teacher shortage. The school district currently has 18 vacant positions.

The school district is also facing a looming structural deficit in part due to ongoing declining enrollment. NUSD will have to reduce the 24/25 school year budget by \$6M and the 25/26 school year budget by \$8M.

The school district has convened a Budget Task Force made up of community stakeholders to help plan the budget.

Despite these challenges, the foremost goal of the school district is to focus on student learning. The district has set the goals of 1) Student achievement in English Language Arts and Mathematics by a 2% growth overall, with a stretch goal of 5% for every student sub-group that are below the overall and 2) Increase college and career preparedness.

Superintendent DeLeon shared that Newark Memorial High School was honored as an AP Honor Roll school and the California Association of Science Educators selected science teacher Rachel Bloom as the Upper Grade Teacher of the Year in the state of California. Jacob Goldsmith from Newark Memorial was the featured speaker at the CASE (California Association of Science Teachers) Conference.

The presentation is on file with the City Clerk.

## **D.3 Presentation on City plan updates (Art in public Places, Parks Master Plan, Broadband Master Plan, Citywide Facilities Master Plan, Active Transportation Plan, and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)**

Assistant City Manager Hovorka gave the presentation on City plan updates. The City has six master plans that are in various stages of development.

The Citywide Facilities Master Plan addresses the City's 24 building structures. It is in phase two of community engagement which includes a community meeting and online survey. Consultants will develop a draft plan which will be presented to the City Council in December with possible final adoption in January.

The Art in Public Places Master Plan was originally adopted in 2001. The updated plan is currently being developed by the consultants and will be presented to the City Council in November or December.

The Citywide Parks Master Plan covers over 130 acres of City parks. The current master plan was completed in 2017. There is a current survey open for community input. Final approval is anticipated in spring of 2024.

The Broadband Master Plan will review City infrastructure in order to provide improved speed and access to internet usage. Consultants are drafting a report which will be completed in early 2024. The focus will be on under-sourced areas of the City.

The Active Transportation Master Plan is the renamed Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and addresses walking and biking safety throughout the community including safe routes to school. The completed plan should be ready in spring of 2024.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan that is about five years old. It is a collaboration between the Cities of Newark, Fremont, and Union City; the Alameda County Water District; and Union Sanitary District. The City is currently identifying mitigation strategies and anticipates completion in spring 2024.

The presentation is on file with the City Clerk.

#### **D.4 Update on School Resource Officer program**

City Manager Benoun stated that six to seven months ago the City had to suspend the school resource officer program as a result of a sworn personnel staffing shortage. There is currently a statewide sworn officer shortage. Due to efforts by the Newark Police Department, recruitments are up, and City Manager Benoun hopes to reinstate the school resource office program by the next school year. Staff is committed to sending officers to the high school based on availability to address mitigation efforts.

#### **D.5 Appointment of chair and vice chair**

City Manager Benoun stated that traditionally the appointment of chair and vice chair has alternated between the City and the school district.

Committee Member Thomas nominated Committee Member Nguyen as chair. Committee Member Nguyen accepted and nominated Committee Member Jorgens as vice chair.

Committee Member Nguyen asked if meetings would now be conducted from the School Board Room. City Manager Benoun stated that traditionally the meeting site alternated year to year and recommended moving it to the district office. School district staff would be responsible for securing the broadcast and preparation of the agenda and minutes.



Committee Member Thomas moved, and Committee Member Jorgens seconded, to appoint Committee Member Nguyen as chair. The motion passed, 3 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

Chair Nguyen moved, and Committee Member Thomas seconded, to appoint Committee Member Jorgens as vice chair. The motion passed, 3 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

## **E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public requested to speak.

## **F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **F.1 2024 meetings**

The committee members approved the scheduled 2024 meeting dates of January 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday), April 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday), June 24 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday), and October 28 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday).

### **F.2 Requests for future discussion items**

Chair Nguyen asked if there were any requests for future items.

Committee Member Thomas said there is money available from the state for pre-school and would like to expand the number of 3 and 4-year-old children in pre-school and going into Transitional Kindergarten to get them ready for kindergarten. She would like to see a joint effort to increase the number of pre-schools available to high needs English learner and low socio-economic students.

## **G. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Member Jorgens moved, and Committee Member Thomas seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

Chair Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.