



City of Newark – Newark Unified School District
Liaison Committee



Monday, April 15, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

Newark Unified School
District Boardroom
5715 Musick Avenue
Newark, CA 94560

MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL

Chair Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Present were Committee Members Collazo, Hannon and Chair Gutierrez. Committee Member Rodriguez was noted absent. Alternate Zhang, City Manager Benoun and Superintendent Sanchez were also present.

B. MINUTES

B.1 Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2019.

Committee Member Collazo moved, Committee Member Hannon seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed, 4 AYES.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C.1 Update on the status of the MacGregor Playfields agreement.

Superintendent Sanchez reported that the licensing agreement is almost finished, but needs further editing. City Manager Benoun agreed.

Committee Member Hannon moved, Committee Member Collazo seconded, to continue discussion to the next Liaison Committee meeting to finalize the agreement. The motion passed 4 AYES.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 Consideration of a request from the public to place earthquake supply staging at school sites for Liaison Committee discussion on a future meeting.

Cindy Parks addressed the Committee on the need for the NUSD and the City to work together to provide uniform emergency supplies at all the schools to service the community in case of an earthquake. She asked if there was developer money available for this.

Committee Member Collazo asked if there were containers available at the school sites for storing supplies. She said she did not know if developer funds were available for this use.

City Manager Benoun stated he did not think there are any development impact fees available to fund this request, but there is also the possibility of federal funds; he would have staff investigate. He cautioned against further discussion as the purpose of this item was to add discussion of this topic to a future agenda.

Committee Member Hannon requested that this item be continued to the next Liaison Committee meeting for discussion and asked that school district and city staff provide some background information and revenue options to explore.

D.2 New School Site Area 3 – What are the potential actions the school district can take for that piece of land to be granted to NUSD.

Committee Member Zhang said he understood there is a seven-year time frame for the construction of a school and wanted to know how much time was left since the first permit was pulled for Sanctuary Village. He also wanted to know what funding options the school district could explore as far as a new school.

City Manager Benoun explained the timeline and process of the New School Site Area 3. The school district has 7 years from August 2018 to begin construction of a permanent school campus. If after 7 years the district has not begun the construction of a new school, the land will go back to the developer and a payment will be made to the City.

Committee Member Zhang asked about the funding source. Superintendent Sanchez communicated that no decisions have been made. He indicated the Board is wrestling with declining enrollment and deficit spending. To begin building, the District would need to look at a bond or sales of currently owned property. Committee members discussed potential funding options.

Chair Gutierrez asked if there was a specific type of school to be built. City Manager Benoun communicated that the development agreement says six acres of land for the development of an elementary school.

Member Zhang asked what would be the rough estimate of construction costs in 6-7 years to build a school in Area 3. Superintendent Sanchez said roughly \$45 to \$60 million depending on the structure. A K-8 model could accommodate around 800 students; generally, with that space, not more than 1,000 students.

During public comment Mr Knoop stated that while the City has been very generous in negotiating this land for a school, the District has to consider if it is a viable option because enrollment in the last 10 years has gone down 14% which is the highest school district shrinkage in Alameda County. He questions the justification of building a new school when maybe the District should consider closing a school.

D.3 Children's Innovation Center – Ms. Shanti Balaraman.

Ms. Shanti Balaraman gave a presentation to the committee regarding the Children's Innovation Center.

The Children's Innovation Center is a program of Green Kids Now, Inc., a non-profit organization established in 2009 whose mission is to build responsible innovators and change makers.

Committee Member Hannon thanked Ms. Balaraman for her presentation and her forward thinking for getting children motivated.

Chair Gutierrez also thanked Ms. Balaraman for her presentation and recognized the need to get all children prepared for the future. She asked Ms. Balaraman if she wanted to actually teach the students or teach the staff to implement the program. Ms. Balaraman said that ideally this would be an after school program taught by professionals.

Superintendent Sanchez said NUSD is moving toward applied academics. It takes time, but the District is starting to build momentum.

Committee Member Zhang said that today's five biggest companies are high tech and one of his priorities is to prepare all students for the new economy.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Knoop addressed the committee regarding the agenda and keeping it relevant to the committee. Committee Member Hannon stated that if members of the community had ideas for discussion they are welcome to email their suggestions to City Manager Benoun or Superintendent Sanchez.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The committee members scheduled the next meeting for Monday, September 9, 2019, in the City Council Chamber, City Administration Building.

Future Agenda Items:

Mac Gregor Fields Licensing Agreement

Earthquake Supplies

Census

Multi-Cultural Presentations/Performances for students

Chair Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm.