



City of Newark – Newark Unified School District
Liaison Committee



Monday, September 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING
City of Newark
City Administration Building
City Council Chambers, 6th Floor
37101 Newark Boulevard
Newark, CA 94560

MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL

Chair Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present were Chair Gutierrez and Committee Members Zhang, Collazo and Hannon. City Manager Benoun and Superintendent Sanchez were also present.

B. MINUTES

B.1 Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2019.

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

C. OLD BUSINESS

C.1 Discuss MacGregor Fields Licensing Agreement.

City Manager Benoun reported that City and School District staff negotiated and tentatively agreed to a final agreement. In summary, it is a term license agreement that requires the City to pay \$1 per year until sometime in 2024 for the MacGregor School Playfields. In exchange for that license the City would pay for any ongoing maintenance and water bills.

After the agenda was posted, Committee Member Hannon contacted City Manager Benoun and suggested some changes. Mr. Benoun made the changes and distributed the modified agreement to the committee. The changes restated the intent of the parties, making the agreement very clear.

The first modification is with respect to the term and proposes adding a sentence that makes it clear that in the event this license agreement is terminated then all the parties' respective obligations are likewise terminated; specifically, in the event that the School District wanted to revoke this license, then payment for the water bill as well as any ongoing maintenance obligations would fall to the School District not the City.

The second modification states the School District shall comply with any applicable requirements under the Newark Municipal Code.

City Manager Benoun stated that the City has no objections to these additions and assuming there are no other changes he recommended that the Committee recommend that the NUSD Board of Trustees and the City of Newark City Council adopt this agreement.

Committee Member Collazo moved, Committee Member Zhang seconded to recommend that the City of Newark City Council and the NUSD Board of Trustees adopt the MacGregor Fields Licensing Agreement. The motion passed, 4 AYES.

C.2 Discuss staging earthquake supplies at school sites.

Superintendent Sanchez stated that the NUSD has been working with the Newark Police Department to create emergency response plans for each school site. They will continue to partner with the City and create a district-wide standard that will incorporate earthquake preparedness into the broader emergency plan.

City Manager Benoun confirmed that the Development Impact Fees that the City has been receiving as a result of the significant development occurring in Newark cannot be used for the acquisition of earthquake supplies that could be staged at school sites. The City does not have any available funds that can be used. He did send Superintendent Sanchez several links for potential grants through various nonprofits and foundations that the District will follow up on.

Committee Member Collazo asked if it was the District's plan to have a container full of earthquake supplies at every site. Superintendent Sanchez replied that they are looking at a model that would provide portable containers in each classroom.

Committee Member Hannon suggested readdressing this issue in about six months.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 Census.

City Manager Benoun stated the Census begins in spring 2020. The City is developing a strategy to address this issue and working with the Alameda County Complete Count Census Committee to make sure everyone is counted. This is an important census for the City. If the population reaches 50,000, the City will be eligible for a multitude of Federal funds.

Committee Member Hannon asked if using local census takers would help ensure a more accurate count. City Manager Benoun responded that the Federal government is in control of hiring and deploying the census takers and is aware of where to target underreported areas based on the last Census to ensure a more accurate count.

Committee members then discussed how to best alleviate the fears of some residents and to encourage them to participate in the census. Committee Member Hannon suggested that inroads could be made within the schools through the kids by emphasizing the importance of participating so that we get an accurate account and how it benefits the community.

Committee members also discussed the possibility of scammers targeting certain groups. Chair Gutierrez stated that it is important to start some kind of public relations campaign to inform our community members that the census has not started yet and how to identify official census takers.

Mr. Benoun suggested discussing this issue at the next meeting.

D.2 Discuss providing multi-cultural presentations at school sites.

Committee Member Collazo would like to bring some kind of cultural play or musical performance to the theater at the high school for the entire School District to enjoy. Assistant Superintendent Leticia Salinas will look into information on the Ballet Folklorico that performed in Union City.

Committee Member Collazo knows of a family that has a flamenco dancing school, and they are interested in performing for the school. She brought some information on The Flamenco Society of San Jose. She suggested that Assistant Superintendent Salinas contact them to arrange something.

Committee Member Hannon suggested the possibility of a district-wide talent contest that could also be performed at the high school.

D.3 Update on enrollment for 2019/2020.

Superintendent Sanchez stated the NUSD is currently under their projection of 5,900 students. They are currently about 140 students under that number which equates to about \$1.4M in revenue that they are not anticipating. They will have their final number October 2. Projections are based on the last two years.

Committee Member Hannon wanted to commend the School District in their efforts to reduce absenteeism. He also commented that although the City has added new housing that doesn't always translate into adding more students and asked if the School District has had an opportunity to survey some of the new families to find out if they are not sending their children to Newark schools what alternative schools are they choosing.

One of the trends NUSD has noticed is that the students that are leaving are mostly leaving the Bay Area, going into the San Joaquin Valley or elsewhere where housing is more affordable, and a percentage of them are leaving the state. As a whole, California's population is down significantly. The cost of living in the Bay Area is a contributing factor for our families that are lower socio-economic and middle class.

Committee Member Collazo has observed that families with children are moving out of the area.

Chair Gutierrez asked that this discussion be continued at the next meeting.

D.4 Schedule next meeting.

City Manager Benoun reminded the committee members that when this committee was restarted the rules set the schedule of meetings for January, April, June and October and asked if they would like to follow the schedule or prefer to meet on an as-needed basis. The committee members decided to follow the schedule.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 27, 2020, in the Newark Unified School District Boardroom.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Parks addressed the Committee on the topic of staging earthquake supplies at each school site. She voiced her concern about the supplies being stored in classrooms in the event a building collapsed and suggested a container stored in the field would have a better chance of surviving. She feels the school sites would be a natural gathering place in the event of a catastrophe, and this is where the community will gather whenever a disaster should strike.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Hannon moved, Committee Member Collazo seconded to adjourn.

Chair Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.



Kathleen L. Slafter
Deputy City Clerk