



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



Virtual Teleconference Location - ZOOM

**MINUTES**

Monday, January 25, 2021

5:30 P.M.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Chair Collazo called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Present were Chair Collazo, Vice Chair Nguyen, and Committee Members Hannon and Grindall. Also present were City Manager Benoun and Superintendent Triplett.

**B. MINUTES**

**B.1** Vice Chair Nguyen moved and Committee Member Hannon seconded to approve the November 16, 2020 minutes. The motion passed, 3 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN (Committee Member Grindall).

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**C.1 Earthquake preparedness.**

Superintendent Triplett stated that the comprehensive safety plans for each school will be submitted to the County soon. Emergency kits and outdoor supply containers are at each school. NUSD will do a review to make sure everything is updated, and Superintendent Triplett will report back to the Committee.

Superintendent Triplett will also research the current emergency radios.

In response to Committee Member Hannon, Superintendent Triplett verified that the school sites can be gathering places and that drills are held yearly including evacuation, active shooter, lock-ins and lock-outs. He will find out the actual dates.

Chair Collazo commented that the schools should be gathering places for their specific students and families.

Vice Chair Nguyen asked if City facilities could also be used as gathering sites. City Manager Benoun stated that the Silliman Center is a designated Red Cross site.

Chair Collazo suggested that an update be provided on a later date. City Manager Benoun said after the completion of the new Civic Center the City can review their Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan and reconsider EOC sites.

## **C.2 Census update.**

Community Development Director Turner gave an update on the 2020 Census. The City of Newark had a Self-Response Participation Rate of 82.8%. Community Development Director Turner does not expect to get the actual count until the end of March and more detailed information later in the year.

Chair Collazo expressed her thanks to Promotores, NUSD staff, and Newark Recreation staff for their outreach efforts and thanked Alameda County for providing the distribution materials.

Committee Member Hannon thanked City Manager Benoun and Superintendent Triplett and their staff for their work to promote a successful Census.

## **C.3 Update on schools reopening.**

Superintendent Triplett stated we are in the Purple Tier, and he does not anticipate reopening until we are out of it. Schools will also not reopen until they have agreements with both labor partners. The School District has submitted a reopening plan to the County. The state announced a number of requirements to create a more cohesive structure across the state. There will be a website available that anyone in the state can access to look up their district and their individual school and check its status. Each district will update their information twice a month.

NUSD is waiting to hear from the County as to when vaccines will be provided for educators. There is no plan that he is aware of to vaccinate children.

Committee Member Hannon thanked Superintendent Triplett for the survey reflecting that 50% of the parents were comfortable and 50% uncomfortable sending their children back to school full time. He appreciated the School Board taking parents' concerns into consideration. Superintendent Triplett stated they will administer another survey to parents and one to teachers in February.

## **C.4 Update on school consolidation.**

Superintendent Triplett stated that the School Board decided to merge Snow and Graham Schools, for the upcoming school year and consolidate Musick the following year.

The merged school will be on the Graham campus. A design team will be formed of parents, staff members, and two school leaders to design the academics and other issues such as school name. They are anticipating approximately 650 students.

Committee Member Hannon urged Superintendent Triplett to retain the historical nature of the community when considering a new name.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **D.1 Development of a Strategic Communications Plan to coordinate and expand marketing efforts of the Newark community.**

Committee Member Grindall encouraged the City and the School District to work together on a marketing strategy to change the image of the community. The growth in housing units has not increased school enrollment numbers. The City and School District need to work together to market the community in order to tell a positive story that can turn around declining enrollment.

Vice Chair Nguyen agreed that the City and School District work well together and when they do come together they can improve things for the community.

Committee Member Hannon agreed and said this is an opportunity for the community to see the City Council and the School Board together at community events. Newark schools have outstanding programs and great teachers. Parents look for a high-performance level, and we need to demonstrate that Newark schools are competitive.

### **D.2 Benefits of State infusion of additional funding for school districts.**

Superintendent Triplett said unfortunately there is no significant upcoming funding. The governor did reveal his proposal for the upcoming school year budget and it does include an unexpected increase in COLA (cost-of-living adjustment).

### **D.3 Spanish language immersion plan.**

Superintendent Triplett stated the school district is developing plans for a dual language (English/Spanish) immersion program at one site for the upcoming school year. They have been reaching out to parents (both English- and Spanish-speaking) to gauge interest and answer questions. There is a committee being formed to support the program. If the School Board approves the plan, Superintendent Triplett said they would like to move forward in the upcoming school year at Schilling Elementary.



In Response to Committee Member Hannon, Superintendent Triplett said they are starting with Spanish and will look forward to growing with other languages. He has heard interest in the School District providing preschool/early year programs, but nothing is currently planned.

Committee Member Grindall said the School Board is very interested in this program.

In response to Chair Collazo, Superintendent Triplett said the program would start in kindergarten and first grade and build a grade each year.

#### **D.4 Discuss public comment policy for Liaison Committee meetings.**

City Manager Benoun said there are two different approaches to accepting public comment from the two separate public agencies that make up this committee. Staff is looking for feedback from the Committee on how the committee should receive public comment.

Committee Member Hannon said that government should be open and transparent to its constituents and needs to give the public the opportunity to comment. He would like to give the Chair the opportunity to limit speaker time depending on the number of speakers.

Chair Collazo, Committee Member Hannon, Vice Chair Nguyen and Committee Grindall agreed with modifying the process depending on who is hosting the meeting.

City Manager Benoun said that prior to the pandemic, meeting sites were alternated quarterly between City Council and School Board with the hosting agency providing administrative support. As the Chair and Vice Chair positions are year-long terms, City Manager Benoun suggested that the Chair's agency be responsible for preparing the agenda and minutes during their term.

Chair Collazo and Vice Chair Nguyen agreed with City Manager Benoun's suggestion. Vice Chair Nguyen said the issue can be revisited when the meetings are back to live sessions.

#### **D.5 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.**

Committee Member Hannon moved, and Committee Grindall seconded, to nominate Vice Chair Nguyen as Chair for 2021. The motion passed, 4 AYES.

Chair Collazo moved, and Vice Chair Nguyen seconded, to nominate Committee Member Hannon as Vice Chair for 2021. The motion passed, 4 AYES.

Superintendent Triplett verified that the School District will host the virtual meetings for the next one-year term.

### **E. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public spoke.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Member Hannon reminded committee members to provide agenda items at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

Chair Collazo adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.