



CITY OF NEWARK – NEWARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LIAISON COMMITTEE



Virtual Teleconference Location - ZOOM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Monday, April 26, 2021

5:30 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

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

B. MINUTES

B.1 Committee Member Collazo moved and Committee Member Grindall seconded to approve the January 25, 2021 minutes. The motion passed, 4 AYES.

C. OLD BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 NUSD Reopening Plan

Superintendent Triplett shared a presentation, and stated the district is in the process of reopening. Presentation included information regarding the developments, calendars and schedules, and safety protocols and updates. The timeline of events were the following: April 15: Board voted to reopen, April 23: Newark Teachers Association ratified the agreement, April 27: a dry run, April 29: schools reopened for in-person for grades TK-7, 9, and May 4: reopening for Pre-K and 12th. There has been extensive preparation from teachers and staff. Superintendent Triplett reviews the school schedules. Superintendent Triplett states that schools have developed safety protocols around arrivals and departures, recess/breaks,

office visits, restroom use, and daily health screening. In addition, the district has been able to provide various opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Superintendent Triplett reviewed HVAC system updates, along with purchase of HEPA air purifiers. Lastly, the NUSD will be administering staff COVID-19 testing. Superintendent Triplett reviewed the protocols for any possible exposure.

Vice Chair Hannon had questions regarding the superintendent's presentation and began with the possible exposure protocols asking what would happen if a child arrived with a fever. In response, Superintendent Triplett stated, a health screener is completed by families, the family would indicate a fever, staff will review the health check before entering the campus, and in addition temperature checks will occur even though not required by the county.

Additional questions from Vice Chair Hannon included the COVID-19 testing for staff, and if they would be required to take the test even if they have been vaccinated. Superintendent Triplett states that they will follow the county, as of now all staff will get tested, until the county says otherwise.

Vice Chair Hannon asked if the county followed the guidelines of the CDC and Superintendent Triplett stated they do.

Vice Chair Hannon asked if all the work done on the HVAC systems were recommendations by the CDC or discretion of the district. Superintendent Triplett stated the units are old, and required updates which have been done based on the bond requirements, and based on the CDC the district is doing additional updates. Vice Chair Hannon congratulated Dr. Triplett and his team.

Vice Chair Hannon asked if the district has the classroom space for all students who wish to return to in-person. In response, Superintendent Triplett stated that based on parent decision to return to in-person or stay in distance learning the district was able to know the capacity needed, and all rooms have been evaluated to follow the distance requirements from the county and provide appropriate classroom capacity for all students requesting in-person learning.

Vice Chair Hannon asked if the district has taken into consideration the traffic backups that occur due to pick-up and drop-offs. Superintendent Triplett stated that in order to mitigate that, the schools have staggered schedules.

Vice Chair Hannon congratulated the school board for bringing students back to in-person learning.

Vice Chair Hannon asked how long the students would be back to school, and Superintendent Triplett stated the last day of school would be June 2.

D.2 Sanctuary Village (Area 3 – School Site): Update on Time & Status

City Manager Benoun gave background information regarding the Sanctuary Village development. In August 2018, was when the first building permit was pulled, and it triggered the clock. Currently, the district has to begin construction by August 2025.

Committee Member Grindall asked if the declaration of emergency had made any modification to the timeline. In response, City Manager Benoun stated he was not aware but will follow up with the city attorney.

Vice Chair Hannon asked for clarification that the school needed to be built needed to be an elementary, and City Manager Benoun confirmed that was correct.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was made available and requested by the following:

1. Brian Foster: Made a statement on the topic of the return to in-person learning.
2. Cheri Villa: Provided a written statement regarding the return to in-person learning.

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Committee Member Hannon made a motion to adjourn, and Committee Member Collazo second the motion. The motion passed, 4 AYES.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.