



CITY OF NEWARK – NEWARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LIAISON COMMITTEE



Virtual Teleconference Location - ZOOM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Monday, June 28, 2021

5:30 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Chair Nguyen
Vice Chair Hannon
Committee Member Collazo
Committee Member Grindall

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

B. MINUTES

B.1 Approval of the April 26, 2021 minutes

Chair Nguyen requested to pull this item.

Action: To defer making on motion on the minutes until the next meeting.

Motion by Vice Chair Hannon, second by Member Collazo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Member Grindall, Member Collazo, Vice Chair Hannon, Chair Nguyen

C. OLD BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 NUSD 2021-22 School Year [Superintendent Dr. Triplett]

Triplett provided a presentation and information on the 2021-22 school year. There is still a lot of unknown information and waiting for additional information from the state and county. What is known is there will be in person instruction or virtual/independent studies. A hybrid option will not be available. In-person instruction will be five days per week, with a regular full day schedule, lunch, recess, breaks, and afterschool programs will return. What

may look different will be revised COVID-19 safety protocols and vaccine availability depending on age requirement.

As for the virtual instruction option, there will be an enrollment window for those who choose to return to in-person. An interest form was shared with the community to understand the community's preference – and out of 1490 respondents 94.9% prefer in-person instruction. In the Spanish survey, out of 138 respondents, 94.9% prefer in-person instruction.

Next steps include another Town Hall in July, release of new state guidance possibly by early July, and continue to gauge family interest.

Collazo asked, is the state reimbursing the school due to COVID expenses. Triplett said the state has given grant opportunities, monies were given to return to in person, and the state has provided various financial supports.

Collazo asked, for students who opted to do virtual, were they more high school students or elementary grade students. Triplett did not have that information, but will bring it back the information.

Hannon asked for clarification as to what independent study will look like. Triplett stated that there is a traditional independent studies program, where students do their studies at home and periodically meet with a teacher to review the work. The state is in the process of finalizing the guidelines, but it is understood that the students enrolled in this program will receive daily interaction online from a Newark certified teacher, and in addition one day a week of instruction that will also be virtual. The one day instruction will be performed by another program.

Hannon asked for clarification of what a normal full day would look like. Triplett anticipates a normal will look the same as prior to the pandemic. Hannon what the hours look like for a normal day and Triplett stated it depends on grade, but it will be a normal schedule.

Hannon stated, we currently do not have a vaccination for those under 12 years of age, and asked Triplett if he anticipated a mandate to require vaccine to attend school. Triplett stated it is all speculation, but does not anticipate a mandate. Triplett mentioned NUSD, and in partnership with the city, has offered numerous opportunities for the community to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Hannon stated we are doing a great job in Newark vaccinating our residents.

Grindall wanted to clarify that there will be some changes in the start time in the student's schedules due to guidance from the state. Triplett stated that the state has passed new laws that go into effect in 2023 for a change in the secondary schedule, but will try to implement the new start time.

D.2 City of Newark's City-Wide Reopening Plan [City Manager Benoun]

Benoun provided an update on the hours for some of the city facilities. The Silliman Activity Center is fully reopened, the fields outside the facility have been in use. As for the Senior Center, that facility opened on June 16, 2021. As for the Newark Community Center, the city is in the process of evaluating a reopening to the community for rental use. As for the Civic Center, most of the construction has been completed and employees are using the facility. Police department personnel are in the new police building. The library construction is completed but the fixtures are still being worked on, and that will be a county driven process that will take some time. As for construction of the Civic Center, the parking lot is not ready, but the prior building has been demolished. The police department is opened to the public, and for City Hall services are still offered remotely to the public. As for the opening of the building, it will be a phased approach with a potentially fully opened date in September.

Grindall asked when the council will resume meeting in the chambers. Benoun stated they are likely to resume some sort of in-person meetings in September.

Nguyen asked if the Library is still taking donations from the community, and Benoun believed they are still taking donations and will continue to accept donations from the community.

D.3 Coyote Hills Elementary Status Update [Superintendent Dr. Triplett]

Triplett stated the name selected was Coyote Hills Elementary. For the upcoming school year, there will be an increase in resources for the school. The Design team, made up of teachers, classified staff, and families, did a tremendous amount of work to shape the school climate, instruction, and engagement. As for the move of the staff and equipment from Snow to the new Coyote Hill Elementary, the process has begun and the move will be in July.

Hannon stated that there are instructions available for public comment, but questioned how to handle questions or comments coming in from the zoom chat. Nguyen clarified that that feature should be turned off. Hannon stated that this discussion could be brought back at a future meeting to address public input.

Hannon asked if the school can give consideration to historical figures of Newark, because he sees the historical figures are diminishing. Triplett stated that there is an existing policy that provides the Board with the criteria to take into consideration when selecting a school name. There were a number of suggested local names submitted, and the community voted in various formats. After the community narrowed the selection, the names were brought forward to the board, and finally the design team brought forward a recommendation.

Collazo asked, if the teachers from Snow all transferred to Coyote Hills Elementary. Triplett confirmed that all the Snow teachers transferred to Coyote Hills Elementary or another school if they requested to go elsewhere.

Grindall stated that when we rename a school, sometimes important parts of the school may be renamed with the historical figures. Hannon commented that he appreciated and supported the process.

D.4 Dual Language Immersion Program Status Update [Superintendent Dr. Triplett]

Triplett stated that there will be a Dual Language Immersion Kinder and 1st grade as well as a traditional Kindergarten and 1st grade at Schilling. New staff has been hired to help with the program. In addition, the Board has approved two murals to be painted at Schilling. Looking forward for a similar project at Coyote Hills Elementary.

Hannon congratulated the district on the great interest in the Dual Language Immersion Program. Triplett added that initially it was planned for one cohort, but due to the level of interest there will be two DLI cohorts.

D.5 Summer Crossing Guards Availability Information [City Manager Benoun]

Benoun clarified that there are two summer school programs and will look to see if the city can budget two crossing guards for the summer and for the next year.

Hannon, recognized the safety of the students and asked if this is an opportunity for parents to volunteer for this program? Benoun clarified that the crossing guards to go through training, so he would have to look into the requirements of being a crossing guard and the next city council meeting is July 8th.

Grindall thanked the city for their partnership with the District with this program and protecting our children. Nguyen also thanked the city.

D.6 Sanctuary Village (Area 3) NUSD Feasibility Study [Chair Nguyen & Member Grindall]

Grindall requested this item. Grindall would like to inform the city and community that the District is undertaking the process of conducting a feasibility study to understand if the District will be able build a school in Area 3. This study is just the first step to see if a school can be built, but not making a decision to build. Grindall addressed the possible concern of a District building a school while facing the challenge of low enrollment. Grindall explained that based on geography, that area does not have adequate land set aside for schools and based on plans there will be additional growth. In addition, the current facilities need to be accounted for rebuilding or remodeling. Finally, projects such as these take a long time, and this item was to provide that overview.

Hannon asked if the feasibility study will lay out a timeline and establish a determination. Triplett stated that the company is waiting for the census data before completing their report, and may have it ready as early as November.

Hannon states that the feasibility study will include funding sources, and will that include a reuse of the current school sites or will that will considered down the road. Triplett stated the repost may not consider recent site. Hannon echoed Grindall, regarding the condition of the current buildings.

D.7 In-Person Meetings [All Member Discussion]

Hannon stated that in the past committee alternated locations with the District and the City. Triplett stated that the District has begun the first stage of in person, however due to technological challenges in order to accommodate virtual community participation they are anticipating full in-person meetings in August.

Hannon asked if it would be reasonable to use the city council chambers for the October meeting.

Benoun stated that currently the city does not have any legal requirement related to technology availability, but stated that the meeting may be held at the city council chambers. Hannon stated the January meeting will be held at the NUSD boardroom.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was request.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion: Hannon requested to add to the next agenda how to address public comment or questions regarding items on the agenda that are discussed.

Discussion: Members agreed to hold the next meeting inside the city chambers if the room was available.

Action: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Vice Chair Hannon, second by Member Grindall.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Member Grindall, Member Collazo, Vice Chair Hannon, Chair Nguyen

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.