



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



City Council Chambers
37101 Newark Boulevard, Newark, CA 94560

MINUTES

Monday, April 25, 2022
6:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Chair Hannon called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Members present:

Chair Hannon
Vice Chair Grindall
Committee Member Collazo
Committee Member Nguyen

B. MINUTES

B.1 Approval of the March 2, 2022, minutes

No one from the public requested to speak.

Committee Member Collazo moved and Vice Chair Grindall seconded to approve the March 2, 2022, minutes. The motion passed: 4 AYES.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C.1 COVID update, including vaccination and testing efforts
[Superintendent Triplett]

Superintendent Triplett stated that the Coyote Hills Elementary vaccination clinic reopened on Saturdays as of April 23; a free COVID-19 vaccination clinic continues on Fridays in partnership with the County of Alameda outside the Mexico Tortilla Factory; and COVID-19 testing at all District sites.

The County provided rapid test kits for all staff and students with the expectation that they would test 24 hours prior to returning to school from spring break. Committee Member Nguyen asked about results of the testing. Superintendent Triplett stated that there are a few cases, and they will continue to track the impact of spring break on the positivity rate.

Chair Hannon asked if there has been an increase in the percentage of students that have received the vaccination. Superintendent Triplett stated not as significant an increase as hoped despite the efforts of the School District, City, and County.

No one from the public requested to speak.

C.2 Middle School design at the Newark Junior High School update.
[Superintendent Triplett]

Superintendent Triplett stated that the District is transitioning sixth graders to the junior high school next school year. On April 6, 2022, school and District staff shared information with families about the upcoming school year. The facility will be able to accommodate all students. Facility upgrades are being made.

Superintendent Triplett also stated that budget allocations have been done and will be presented to the School Site Council for approval.

Chair Hannon thanked Superintendent Triplett for all the work done to make this a smooth transition.

No one from the public requested to speak.

C.3 Crossing Guards update and possible addition to Newark Junior High School
[City Manager Benoun]

City Manager Benoun stated that City staff did an analysis and recommended a crossing guard at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Christine Street. The City will continue to fund the contract, and there is no need for any action from this committee.

Vice Chair Grindall and Committee Member Nguyen thanked the City.

No one from the public requested to speak.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 Newark Unified School District enrollment marketing on billboards.
[Superintendent Triplett]

Superintendent Triplett expressed the School District's interest in increasing enrollment and stated that he had seen billboards in various cities advertising enrollment in their schools. He thanked the City for offering the use of its billboards to increase enrollment and partnering to improve outcomes for kids.

Chair Hannon stated that marketing is key. It is important to highlight the benefits to families for children to attend local schools.

No one from the public requested to speak.

D.2 Summary of the usage of public safety officers at our public schools including a discussion on student safety since students have returned to school
[Requested by Chair Hannon; report from Superintendent Triplett]

Chair Hannon stated he requested this item because of the anxiety children are experiencing with the return to school and to understand the relationship between the School District and the City as it relates to public safety officers on school campuses. He feels their presence on campus is important for safety issues and the availability of someone students can talk to.

Superintendent Triplett expressed his appreciation for the Newark Police Department and their support. There is a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus at Newark Memorial High School, and she is available to support all the other schools.

Lieutenant Salvador Sandoval spoke on his experiences as a School Resource Officer at Newark Memorial High School. He stressed the importance of the partnership between the resource officer and the School District.

In response to Committee Member Collazo, Lieutenant Sandoval stated there used to be an officer at the junior high school but because of budget issues the position was discontinued.

Vice Chair Grindall stated that with all the issues other communities have with officers on campus Newark is a model for how it can be done and has positive implications for the community. It is a testament to the officers and the schools, and he thanks the officers.

Committee Member Nguyen thanked the officers for their support.

Chair Hannon stated that the current MOU (Memorandum of Understand) expired. He asked the School District and the City review the MOU, make any necessary revisions, and come back to this Committee in October with an update that they can take back to the School Board and City Council.

Vice Chair Grindall moved and Committee Member Collazo seconded to bring back a revised draft of the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding and look into expanding the SRO to the junior high school. A formal vote was not taken on the motion.

Cheri Villa stated that the SRO at the junior high school was cut in 2013, and she is excited about the possibility of it returning.

D.3 Update on the STAR academy
[Requested by Vice Chair Grindall; report from Superintendent Triplett]

Superintendent Triplett stated that the STAR (Science, Technology, Aerospace, and Robotics) Academy is a new initiative the School District is launching for the upcoming school year.

Vice Chair Grindall asked Superintendent Triplett to talk about the success of the Newark Memorial High School Rocketry Club.

Superintendent Triplett said that three teams from the Rocketry Club will be going to the national competition in Washington.

Chair Hannon said that the Rocketry Club has had a history of success and suggested the City Council present the students with commendations at a future City Council meeting.

Regarding the STAR academy Chair Hannon stated the School District is competing with charter schools and private schools and the more they can demonstrate that what children receive at the local school is academically far superior or can provide greater benefit to children the more likely families will come back to the public schools. He requested a follow-up by the end of the year on the program progress.

No one from the public requested to speak.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Member Collazo invited everyone to the New Civic Center Grand Opening on Saturday, May 14, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be tours of the new buildings, refreshments, games, and music.

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

F.1 June Meeting: Information on academic loss in students due to COVID-19 and how parents can be helped if their child has fallen behind.
[Requested by Chair Hannon; reported by Superintendent Dr. Triplett]

June Meeting: Have a representative from the library speak about enrichment programs and how this information can get relayed to students

[Requested by Committee Member Nguyen; reported by City Manager Benoun (reach out to library)]

October Meeting: School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding update
[Requested by Chair Hannon; City Manager David Benoun and Superintendent Dr. Triplett]

October Meeting: Follow-up on the progress of the STAR Academy
[Requested by Chair Hannon; reported by Superintendent Dr. Triplett]

October Meeting: Have a representative from Recreation and Community Services speak about enrichment programs and how this information can get relayed to students
[Requested by Committee Member Nguyen; reported by City Manager Benoun (reach out to Recreation)]

The next meeting is Monday, June 20, 2022, 6:00 pm. Chair Hannon requested committee members submit items 15 days prior to the meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hannon adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Kathleen L. Slafter
Deputy City Clerk