



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



City Council Chambers
37101 Newark Boulevard, Newark, CA 94560

MINUTES

Monday, August 15, 2022
6:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Chair Hannon called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Members present:

Chair Hannon
Vice Chair Grindall
Committee Member Collazo (via Zoom)
Committee Member Nguyen

B. MINUTES

B.1 Approval of the April 25, 2022, minutes

No one from the public requested to speak.

Committee Member Grindall moved, Committee Member Nguyen seconded, to approve the April 25, 2022, minutes. The motion passed: 4 AYES.

Chair Hannon suggested that as the meeting began late, the Committee consider opening PUBLIC COMMENT as the first order of business. The Committee agreed.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public requested to speak.

C. OLD BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 Presentation by Newark Library Branch Manager Joe Stoner about enrichment programs and student outreach (presentation on file with the City Clerk)

Mr. Stoner stated that the library's programs strive toward building a community. He stated that there are School District programs that work well with the library's approach – the STAR Academy, Master of Code Certification program, and the Dual Language Immersion program. He specified programs at the middle school that focus on project-based learning, that have students volunteer at the library, and the music program. He also acknowledged the high school's successful rocketry and robotics teams.

The library advocates a broad definition of success and cultivates an environment of autonomy, competence, and relatedness. More than half of Newark students come from low-income families making it important to provide the summer lunch program, to serve an after-school snack starting in September, to bring back the homework help program and to facilitate an ESL program for 9 to 13-year-olds including computer skills. The library works in partnership with Promotores and offers programs for families with children with special needs and adult education.

The library has experience with youth volunteers and has created “The Curiosity Shop” which celebrates open-ended exploration and invention. They also offer programs that address mental health.

The Newark Library has received a \$100,000.00 grant from the California State Library and will partner with Irvington Library to hire teen Makerspace interns from low-income families.

The library has also received a \$100,000.00 grant from Alameda County through Supervisor Richard Valle's office. The goal is to purchase musical instruments, display cases, and ways of exhibiting art in the library to promote open ended discovery.

Committee Member Nguyen asked what can the School District do to help get the information on these programs to Newark families? Mr. Stoner suggested connecting through school clubs and word of mouth.

D.2 Update on status of School Resource Officer (SRO)

City Manager Benoun reported that after 20 years of service Newark Memorial High School SRO Tina Knutson is retiring and the position is vacant. The City hopes to have a new SRO in place at the high school within a month.

Chair Hannon asked City Manager Benoun to briefly describe the roll of a School Resource Officer. City Manager Benoun responded that the SRO works at the school site, responds to any calls for service, and assists in any way needed.

Committee Members Nguyen and Grindall wished Officer Knutson a happy retirement. Committee Member Grindall asked how will service be provided until a new SRO is appointed. City Manager Benoun responded that an interim appointment will not be assigned, but that service to all schools has been stepped up as a result of school reopening and will continue to be for the next week or so. Committee Member Grindall expressed his appreciation for the City's ongoing partnership. Having the SRO is extremely important for the safety of the children.

Committee Member Collazo shared that the SRO builds relationships with the children. She also congratulated Officer Knutson on her retirement. Committee Member Collazo requested a presentation on active shooter training for schools.

The committee discussed scheduling the presentation in October or January

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Dr. Triplett stated that the School District has been working with the Newark Police Department to plan some active shooter drills and presentations for August and September. He will be able to give a report on the status at the October meeting.

D.3 Information on academic loss in students due to COVID-19 and parental assistance (presentation on file with the City Clerk)

The amount of time and instruction lost during the pandemic was tremendous. As the District planned for state assessments at the end of the school year, they anticipated they would see a sharp decline in academic achievement, but he reported that the decline was not what they anticipated.

This year the District is focusing their instructional priorities on: 1) Social Emotional Learning and Wellness, 2) Student Engagement for Rigorous Standard-Based Instruction, and 3) Assessment for Learning.

Dr. Triplett shared the SBAC preliminary data (3-Year Comparison). 5 out of the 7 grade levels in math scored either above or within one percentage point of pre-pandemic levels. All grade levels scored either above or within one percentage point in English assessment. In science, all but one grade level (11th grade) scored higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Committee Member Collazo stated she has seen a little decline in respect and empathy. We need to incorporate in education. The academic growth is wonderful.

Committee Member Nguyen referred to the graph and asked if other districts experienced a similar decline in math progression. Dr. Triplett said yes, it is a common downward trajectory.

There were no comments from the audience.

Chair Hannon asked Dr. Triplett if he had targeted goals to improve scores over the next one to five years. Dr. Triplett said they have a goal of a 10 percent gain across every grade level. Chair Hannon asked if there was an explanation for the steady decline in scores after third grade. Dr. Triplett explained that math skills are cumulative. The math standards changed about five or six years ago and became much more about problem solving (multiple solutions) rather than computational.

Chair Hannon said he would like to see this data presented to the Committee annually.

Chair Hannon asked about students whose second language is English and how long it takes them to be proficient. Dr. Triplett said it takes about seven years. Students need more support to progress past conversational to academic language skills. He said the dual language immersion program helps students learn in their own language while building English skills.

Committee Member Collazo commented that ESL learners face challenges and wondered if professional mentors/City employees could mentor these students. It would help the students and build goodwill between the students and the City.

Committee Nguyen thanked members of Promotores for the work they do helping families thrive in our community

F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

F.1 October 17, 2022, meeting:

School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding update
[Requested by Chair Hannon; report by City Manager David Benoun and Superintendent Triplett]

Follow-up on the progress of the STAR Academy
[Requested by Chair Hannon; report by Superintendent Triplett]

Have a representative from Recreation and Community Services speak about enrichment programs and student outreach
[Requested by Committee Member Nguyen; reported by City Manager Benoun (reach out to Recreation)]

Presentation on active shooter/practice drills

[Requested by Committee Member Collazo; reported by City Manager Benoun

The next meeting is Monday, October 17, 2022, 6:00 pm. Chair Hannon requested committee members submit additional items to City Manager Benoun or Superintendent Triplett no later than October 1, 2022.

F.2 2023 meetings:

January 23 (4th Monday), April 17 (3rd Monday), June 19 (3rd Monday), and October 16 (3rd Monday)

G. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Collazo moved, Committee Member Nguyen seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 5 AYES.

Chair Hannon adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Kathleen L. Slafter
Deputy City Clerk