

Newark Educators
Community Charter School
September 12, 2017

9-11 Hill Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Tel: (973) 732-3848
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SEPTEMBER AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02

The following was stated: In accordance with the provisions of the “Open Public Meeting Law,” The Newark Educators’ Community Charter School has issued notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time and place thereof posted by the borough clerk and notice sent to the Star Ledger.

ROLE CALL

Name	Title	Voting/Non-Voting	Present	Absent
Lisette Curry	President	Voting	X	
Mary Serpico	Vice President	Voting	X	
Nausia Bell	Trustee	Voting	X	
Nancy Toes	Trustee	Voting	X	
Chalynda Maynard	Trustee	Voting	X	
Al-Jabbar Riddle	Trustee	Voting	X	
Dina Velez	Principal	Non-Voting	X	
Hector Berrios	SBA/ Board Secretary	Non-Voting	X	
Joyce Kornegay	Consultant	Non-Voting	X	
Earl Munyan	Teacher representative	Non-Voting	X	

PUBLIC PORTION

*Members of the public wishing to address the Board of Trustees must state their name, and affiliation and are allotted **three (3) minutes** to present their comments and concerns. Each member of the public will be given **one** opportunity to address the board.*

- Mrs. Henry – address termination of employment
 - What were the reasons for decision to terminate
 - Inquiring if she is allowed to enter the building. She still has a child currently enrolled at NECCS but every time she has come to the building, she is made to feel uncomfortable and unwelcome
 - She has been a loyal parent for several years and has even encouraged other families to enroll their students
- Nicole Wright (Ibin’s mom) – claims that the only reason that she enrolled her son at the school is because of Ms. Henry. She was shocked to find out that Ms. Henry was no longer here. She no longer feels at home at the school
 - Feels that school communication is suffering – she didn’t even know what day school was starting this year until she received a call blast
- Dawn Sych, parent
 - Works with Essex County Council for children
 - Would like to address the board regarding the parking/pick up situation
 - Believes that Prek and K are ready for pick up exactly at 3:00pm
 - Requires more organization during dismissal
 - Left a message with Ms. Jenkins and other members of City Hall to bring the problem to their attention
 - Ms. Velez also typed up a petition and she will be working towards collecting signatures
 - Teachers need to be more punctual with dismissal
 - Work with the parents as a team to make a safer environment for all members of the community
- Mr. Williams, Health & Nutrition teacher
 - Monies allocated towards PT position
 - Ms. Serpico stated that the board hoped to achieve a return of investment within the year to compensate for the expense

- Monies could be allocated towards more security for the school or other expenses to help the needs of the staff (Special Needs, Student Support, etc.)
- Use the money to hire other staff members who could be more integral to the internal operations of the school
- Also feels that the feelings of the administrators were not taken into consideration and that bringing on an HOS could jeopardize school morale
- Staff retention is imperative – especially within the leadership
- Mr. Munyan, Associate Teacher
 - Has 2 letters from staff members to read to the board. (Ms. Pamm and Ms. Santora)
 - There were no staff members in favor of hiring a Head of School
 - HOS implies that the performance of the Principal and SBA are in question
 - Since both administrators are effective in their performance thus far, it seems that hiring an HOS would be redundant
 - Process is rushed
 - Why would an individual who did not have a background in education be a good fit?
 - Why fix what is not broken?
 - Use the money elsewhere? Help with Special Ed Students –additional personal aides or Special Ed teachers
 - Associate teachers are making less than 30k per year but we suddenly have the funds to hire for this position
 - 7 voting members – 2 members were gone and the number for quorum was less than stipulated in the bylaws
 - Question about the legitimacy of such a decision
- Ms. Pamm, Special Ed teacher (read by Mr. Munyan)
 - 7th year teaching, 2nd year as Special Ed teacher
 - Would like to request hiring an additional Special Ed Teacher
 - Number of students increased from 15 to 25 within the past school year.
 - Several students will be taking PARCC this year and all are reading below grade level. It is imperative that we provide as much support to them as possible to ensure their success
 - The number of students currently classified require larger groups, which are less conducive to learning for these students – less personal attention
 - There are times when my students miss instruction when I am called on to fill in for staff members, help administer testing, and sit in on child study team meetings
- Ms. Santora, Prek Teacher (read by Mr. Munyan)
 - Background in fundraising and grant writing
 - 15 years' experience working for a private school's development department
 - Takes time to institute and develop in order to achieve success
 - Time consuming and labor intensive to achieve parent and community engagement
 - Her previous employer was staffed with 5 FTEs to achieve these goals
 - She does not feel that hiring a PT HOS will achieve the goals set forth for fundraising and development
 - Takes a lot of time and effort to establish connections
 - Money would be better spent in other ways that would directly impact students and staff
 - Development office always worked under the principal
 - If HOS is not invested to the school and its mission, it could detrimentally impact school morale and eventually work against the school
 - If they are unsuccessful, what would it do to our school? Wasted effort?
 - Without true commitment, the efforts will fail
- Ms. Brown, Student Support
 - Started as a personal aide 8 years ago
 - Brining a new person in on a PT basis is unnecessary
 - We need more security and student support
 - Most schools have a full team of FTEs to support instructional staff. Our school has 2 members (Ms. Brown and Ms. Diaz)

- Ms. Diaz, Social Worker (read by Ms. Brown)
 - School Social Worker
 - Ms. Velez has been a great support
 - Everyone at NECCS is stretched
 - Several safety concerns that could have been avoided if we had an armed guard
 - Newark PD does not respond promptly to emergency situations that have risen over the course of the past school year
 - How can we help our students succeed if we are not equipped with the necessary resources?

Thomas Johnston and Rula Alzadon Moor (Johnston Law Firm, LLC) - Potential options the board has to bring clarity to governance and operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

-

Development

- Ms. Kornegay, Ms. Velez, and Ms. Maynard spoke with over 100 families and distributed literature to families during the August 12th Youth Explosion Event
- Many parents expressed a strong interest in the school overall
- Mom's helper
 - As a way to attract parents who have trouble commuting to the school, they might be able to offer transportation for students
 - We would need to garner enough interest to obtain a discounted quote
 - Grant for transportation?
 - Parenting classes are also available to help parents support students with emotional needs
 - Parent survey during open house event on 9/21 to garner interest
 - Mr. DiLorenzo is also meeting with parents to ascertain family needs
 - VanTastic also offers similar services but they are not currently servicing Essex County but are open to considering a proposal from NECCS

Personnel

- Classroom Climate Coach – Tabled for September 20 Curriculum Committee meeting
- Head of School
 - Ms. Velez sent an email to the personnel committee regarding her resignation in the event that an HOS was put in place
 - 60 days' notice if board did not decide to appoint Ms. Kornegay as the HOS
 - Ms. Velez said she would not work well with the HOS
 - Not satisfied with the job description
 - Ms. Velez feels that she has done her due diligence as a principal. She is going into her 5th year. She does not want to resign but she feels that the HOS would not be a good match for her.
 - None of the board members asked for her opinion on it
 - There are so many other pressing issues for the school – renewal, enrollment shortage, special education, etc.
 - Feels that the job description is targeting her role as leadership
 - Ms. Velez feels that she is not included in the financial decisions of the school
 - There are so many other needs that the money could be allocated towards
 - Feels that her voice is not heard by the board
 - She does not want to leave NECCS
 - She has represented NECCS since 2012 but she refuses to work under someone who is not familiar with the needs of the school
 - Ms. Kornegay is a founder and works closely with her.
 - Ms. Kornegay feels that there was a turning point with board perception after the parent incident by the elevator last year
 - Ms. Kornegay feels that the HOS decision is being made to push out Ms. Velez and she does not support it

- Documentation for HOS is not an amendment, it is a notification to the DOE
- Ms. Velez will resign effective December 15th
- Mr. Washington is concerned that a HOS would not be able to properly oversee operations and school functions on a PT basis
- Ms. Waynick is concerned that a rushed decision could negatively impact the sustainability of the school
- Timing is also a concern – If Ms. Velez quits in the middle of the year, it could also make the HOS position more precarious if the principal role is left in vacant for an interim period of time.

Facilities

- Ms. Velez will resign effective December 15th

Curriculum

- First meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 20th

Grievance

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Torra Waynick– Prospective Board Trustee
2. CRA 2018-2023 Notification to Commissioner on following organizational changes/structure
3. NJCSA - October 17th-18th (Robert Treat Hotel, Newark)
4. NJSBA - October 23rd-26th (Atlantic City)
5. SY2016-2017 Board Assessment Results Discussion
 - Rick Pressler invited to attend October 10th meeting
 - Board retreat is necessary
 - Finalize strategic plan and discuss various governance issues
6. Education Week Board Subscriptions
7. Preparation for October 16th CRA Site Visit: Sample List of Board Questions from 2012-2017 CRA Site Visit (Oct. 15, 10a-11a Board of Trustee Interviews)

SCHOOL BUSINESS

1. Principal's report
 - Dire need to first grade enrollment. We have 20 seats open
 - Ms. Velez and Mr. DiLorenzo have been working on community outreach
2. SY 2017-2018 NECCS Afterschool Program
 - 85 students currently enrolled
3. Incident report – M.J.
 - Incident with a parent while Ms. Velez was not on the premises
 - One of the parents has a restraining order against her son's stepfather and he arrived at the school to wait for her while child was dismissing
 - Stepfather had threatened both the mother and the children the evening before
 - Mother was afraid to leave the school
 - Called 911 twice but the police never came
 - She stayed in the building till after 4
 - Armed security guard needs to be assigned in addition to regular guard during dismissal time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve August Minutes

MOTION:	Ms. Toes		
SECOND:	Ms. Bell		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

1. Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Ameer Washington as member of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Educators' Community Charter School.

MOTION:	Mr. Riddle		
SECOND:	Ms. Bell		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

2. Motion to approve the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC) contract for Speech Therapy services to student(s) attending Newark Educators' Community Charter School

The terms of the Agreement shall be in effect from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Newark Educators' Community Charter School, in the County of Essex, and the Board of Directors of the ERESA have, by resolution, directed that their respective presidents and secretaries must affix to this Agreement, a certified copy of the board resolution approving said Agreement.

MOTION:	MS. Serpico		
SECOND:	Ms. Curry		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

3. Motion to approve the revised 2018 Organizational Chart, which has been updated to include Head of School position, Community Parent Involvement Specialist, Classroom Climate Coach, and other changes within the current structure. TABLED
4. Motion to approve renewal of membership to the New Jersey Special Educational Collaborative for an annual amount of \$5,000.

MOTION:	Ms. Curry		
SECOND:	MS. Serpico		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

5. Motion to approve revised 2017-2018 School Calendar to reflect the same dates for spring break as Newark Public Schools.

MOTION:	Ms. Bell		
SECOND:	Ms. Toes		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		

Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

6. Motion to approve submission of 2017 Statement of Assurances for the School Self-Assessment for determining grades under the ABR (Anti-Bullying) Self-Assessment.

MOTION:	Ms. Toes		
SECOND:	Ms. Serpico		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

7. Motion to approve the refusal of Title III Funds for \$879 for the 2017-2018 school year (*Funds cannot be used unless pooled with resources from a collaborative of schools to amount to at least \$10,000.*)

MOTION:	Ms. Bell		
SECOND:	Ms. Toes		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

8. Motion to approve FMLA for Perla Juarez effective September 29, 2017 through December 18, 2017.

MOTION:	Ms. Serpico		
SECOND:	Ms. Maynard		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

FINANCE RESOLUTIONS

1. Motion to approve the Bills List for September 2017 as listed \$256,939.91

Fund 10	General	\$255,167.82
Fund 20	Special Revenue	\$1,373.09
Fund 60	Food Service	\$399.00
Gross Payroll	8/15/17 payroll	\$53,462.67
TPAF State Share	8/15/17 payroll	\$870.06
PERS Board Share	8/15/17 payroll	\$1,361.12
TPAF Board Share	8/15/17 payroll	\$95.27
Gross Payroll	8/30/17 payroll	\$54,803.12
TPAF State Share	8/30/17 payroll	\$870.06
PERS Board Share	8/30/17 payroll	\$1,234.15
TPAF Board Share	8/30/17 payroll	\$319.43

2. Motion to approve the Board Secretary’s Report/Board of Trustees Finance for August

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C 6:23-2.11(c)3, the Board Secretary has certified that, as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the charter school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Newark Educator’s Community Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the above referenced reports and certifications, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Newark Educator’s Community Charter School Trustees certifies in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(c) 4 that sufficient funds are available to meet the charter school’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Newark Educator’s Community Charter School Trustees directs the Chief School Administrator to initiate whatever actions necessary to comply with N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(c) 4I and N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(b).

3. Motion to approve the Transfer Report for August

4. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s reports for August.

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of School Monies is required by statute; 18A:17-36 to submit a report to the Charter School on the cash balance in the various Charter School Bank Accounts, and;

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of School Monies has submitted the Treasurer’s Reports, and; at

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Newark Educator’s Community Charter School Trustees acknowledge receipt of the said Reports of the Treasurer of School Monies as attached hereto for the General Account, Payroll Account, Agency Account, Food Service Account, Unemployment Account, and Summer Account

Motion to group and approve finance motions 1-4

MOTION:	Ms. Toes		
SECOND:	Ms. Serpico		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn open session and begin closed session at 8:50

MOTION:	Ms. Toes		
SECOND:	Ms. Serpico		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

- Personnel
 - Erney Clarke - Rice letter issued
 - Ms. Henry
 - Mr. Berrios – Rice letter issued
 - Ms. Velez - Rice letter issued
- Charter Amendment – Tom Johnston, Legal Counsel

Motion to adjourn closed session and resume open session at 10:29pm

MOTION:	Ms. Bell		
SECOND:	Mr. Riddle		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

Motion to hold in abeyance the search and appointment of a Head of School Position subject to further board deliberation and action.

MOTION:	Ms. Bell		
SECOND:	Ms. Maynard		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:31

MOTION:	Ms. Bell		
SECOND:	Mr. Riddle		
NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT
Lisette Curry	X		
Mary Serpico	X		
Nausia Bell	X		
Nancy Toes	X		
Chalynda VanEckelen	X		
Al-Jabbar Riddle	X		

ADJOURN


 Hector Berrios, Board Secretary