

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SCAC)**

Newark Unified School District

August 27, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

A. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.
B. Roll Call	<p>Members of the Committee Attendees Chae Marshall, Rachel Bloom, Sue Eustice, Hamilton Baylon, Veronica Medina, Selene Nevarez, Angela Ringlein, Maria Ibarra, Cathreene Ingham-Watters, Christine Dix, Michelle Padilla</p> <p>Elisa Martinez, President NUSD School Board Phuong Nguyen, Member NUSD School Board</p> <p>Absent Vilma Cristina Mendoza, Janet Crocker</p>
Introductions	<p>During the roll call, members of the committee introduced themselves. During the introductions there were technical difficulties in hearing all members and the translator was unable to provide translation. The meeting was stopped and a new invitation was sent out to members and the community through Facebook, Twitter, email, texting and on the District website.</p> <p>The meeting was called back to order at 6:40 pm. 13 members present, quorum established</p>
C. Visitor/Public Comment	Three speakers addressed the committee. Statements included at the end of the minutes.
D. Introduction and Role of School Services of California	<p>Brianna García, Director, School Services of California</p> <p>Role: to facilitate the topics of the meetings and to make sure that the information the committee needs is provided in order for the committee to make an informed recommendation.</p> <p>At the end of this process a recommendation from the committee will be presented to the School Board.</p>
E. Overview of Committee Responsibilities	This is a Board appointed committee
F. Brown Act and Conflict of Interest Presentation	<p>Presenter: William Tunick, Esq DWK Attorneys at Law</p> <p>Brown Act prohibits the majority of committee members to discuss, deliberate or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body.</p>

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	<p>This includes serial communications either directly or through intermediaries.</p> <p>Brown Act allows committee members to listen to community comments outside of the meetings, but members should not share how they feel about the topics of the meetings or how they are going to vote.</p> <p>Brown Act allows committee members to request information and clarification from district staff. These questions/requests should be sent to Jodi Croce. The information will be collected and shared with all committee members.</p>
<p>G. Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Committee (Action Item)</p>	<p>Motion made to vote for President Martinez to Chair to the committee: Motion: Padilla Second: Ingham-Watters Committee discussion Yes: 4 (Marshall, Ingham-Watters, Padilla, Martinez) No: 8 (Bloom, Eustice, Baylon, Medina, Ringline, Ibarra, Dix, Nguyen)</p> <p>Motion made to vote for Member Nguyen to be Vice Chair to the committee: Motion: Martinez Second: Ingham-Watters Committee discussion Yes: 6 (Marshall, Bloom, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Padilla, Martinez) No: 7 (Eustice, Baylon, Medina, Nevarez, Ringline, Dix, Nguyen)</p> <p>This item tabled to the next meeting by Board President Martinez for further discussion with the Board of Education. The Board directive is that the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee be the Board subcommittee members.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7:45 pm</p>	<p>Motion to extend the meeting to 8:30 pm by Rachel Bloom Motion amended to extend the meeting to 9:00 pm Motion: Bloom Second: Martinez Yes: 11 (Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Baylon, Medina, Ringline, Ibarra, Dix, Padilla, Martinez, Nguyen) No: (Ingham-Watters)</p>
<p>H. Overview of School Sites Under Consideration</p>	<p>All elementary schools Newark Jr High - possible reconfiguration to Middle School (Grade 6 - Grade 8) MacGregor</p>
<p>I. Presentation of Proposed Criteria/Scoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The goal is to have an objective list of criteria to score sites against ● Need to agree on criteria before talking about individual schools ● CDE list of considerations were used to create this list of criteria

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<p>Methodology</p> <p>(Action Item)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject areas are meeting topics • The committee can submit criteria, but it must be objective and the committee must take a vote to add it to the list <p>Committee voiced concerns with criteria #10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Dashboard was created by the state of California and is where they publish state reported data • School performance is only one of the markers • The committee will discuss school performance individually <p>Committee voiced concerns with #1 - #4 related data that was presented in the individual school slides</p> <p>The criteria is an overview of the topics to be presented. There will be more detailed information presented at each of the meetings.</p> <p>Motion to look at criteria #10 to see if it should stay on the list of proposed criteria/scoring methodology Motion: Ibarra Second: Nguyen Committee Discussion - clarification Yes vote is to eliminate #10 from the list, a No vote is to leave #10 Yes: 6 (Marshall, Eustice, Ringline, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Padilla) No: 7 (Bloom, Baylon, Medina, Nevarez, Dix, Martinez, Nguyen)</p> <p>Motion to approve the criteria as presented Motion: Nguyen Second: Bloom Yes 12 (Marshall, Bloom Eustice, Baylon, Medina, Nevarez, Ringline, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla, Martinez, Nguyen) No 1 (Ibarra)</p>
<p>Proposed Timeline and Next Steps</p>	<p>Next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 10, 2020 September 15, 2020 September 24, 2020 October 8, 2002 October 22, 2020 October 29, 2020 <p>The committee will be presenting their recommendations, in the form of a report, at the November 7, 2020 Board meeting.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>9:00 pm</p>

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<p>Other Attendees</p>	<p>District Personnel Attendees Mark Triplett, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools NUSD Marie dela Cruz, Chief Business Official NUSD Lucia Gutierrez, Executive Assistant to Superintendent Paul Rose, Network Manager NUSD Jodi Croce, Business Services Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Other Attendees Facilitator: Brianna García, Director, School Services of California William Tunick, Esq, DWK Attorneys at Law Gilma Guevara, Spanish Translator</p>
<p>Visitor/Public Comment</p>	<p>I am Terrence Grindall, former Newark Assistant City Manager and presently a School Board Candidate.</p> <p>First and foremost, I would like to commend this committee for taking on this important work. I encourage you to be careful and deliberate in addressing the sensitive issues before you. I would like to point out two issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Please take the major maintenance needs of schools into account when considering which campus may be consolidated. Other things being equal, consider retaining campuses that do not require major capital repairs. 2) Please be aware that the school site in Area 3 that the City required to be donated to the District, requires the construction of at least a part of a school to secure the 6 acre site. School construction must begin within 5 years to receive this site at no cost to the District. <p>Thank you for your consideration please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.</p> <p>Terrance Grindall</p>
<p>Visitor/Public Comment</p>	<p>Good Evening Committee Members:</p> <p>The reason this committee has been formed is due to the district's budgetary issues. Each time there was a board agenda item for this committee, the agenda stated there was no fiscal impact. I hope you will join with me and ask how much School Services is being paid for their role.</p> <p>Item E. - Overview of Committee Responsibilities. I assume will address the committee's Purpose and Composition document approved by the board on April 9, 2020. Why isn't that document included with the agenda for your review prior to the meeting? Also, there's a typographical error on page 2 of the document which needs to be corrected.</p>

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Item H. - Overview of School Sites Under Consideration. I'm glad you will receive a Brown Act presentation. The Brown Act states: ... the legislative body (the district) shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting. Why aren't the school sites under consideration listed on the agenda?

I'd like to make the same observation about agenda Item I. - Presentation of Proposed Criteria/Scoring Methodology. This item says it's an action item, yet there isn't a brief general description of the item, nor documentation for the public to preview and make comment on prior to the committee casting their vote.

Finally, in the spirit of transparency, the committee's responsibility document continually says potential school closures. Yet, an excerpt from the Alameda County Office of Education's April 13, 2020 letter to the district states: "...the expenditure reductions include school closures and require additional oversight by a committee. ACOE encourages the district to work with its stakeholders with urgency to ensure that the expenditure reductions materialize as scheduled." The following excerpt is from their April 29, 2020 letter states: ACOE encourages the District to work with its stakeholders with urgency to ensure that the expenditure reductions materialize as scheduled. The closures don't sound "potential" to me.

The committee's charge entails being fully informed of the district's finances, enrollment, and other relevant data, which prompts this committee's independent recommendation. Your work should not be guided or influenced by district staff, board members, or the ACOE letters. Since those letters were drafted, the district's revenue has significantly increased, therefore, their situation isn't as dire as the ACOE letters and 2020/2021 Budget indicates.

Please insist on facts and data concerning cost savings, not conjecture. The recommendation from this committee has the potential to cause significant changes to the school district and the City of Newark as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Cindy Parks

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Visitor/Public Comment	
	<p>Dear School Closure Advisory Committee,</p> <p>First of all, I want to wish this committee a lot of wisdom in providing advice to the NUSD School Board on the school closure matter.</p> <p>I want to question why a committee created by the school board in order to obtain independent advice should have school board members as its members. It clearly dilutes giving independent advice with decision making. Hopefully the committee would not make any of the board members the committee chair or vice-chair.</p> <p>The Brown Act is a great legal tool, it is not designed to stifle communications between its members it is designed to enforce transparency to the public. All materials distributed to committee members must be included in the agenda packet so that the public has the same information as the committee members not 24 hours later. Also, the agenda items must contain a description detailed enough for the public to understand what is going to be discussed and acted upon.</p> <p>I hope this committee obtains and interprets data and facts in order to independently make its findings and recommendations. The last thing Newark needs is a committee that simply takes the findings from the district and signs at the dotted line.</p> <p>It is great to have a facilitator but I sincerely hope that the sole role of School Services of California will be to facilitate the process instead of becoming a spokesperson for the administration's wishes or becoming a voice for the school board. School Services of California should not engage in private discussions between the administration and school board members related to school closure they should only communicate with respect to matters of facilitation.</p> <p>This committee will not provide any added value if it does not independently make its own conclusions and findings. That requires a lot of work. The committee should require the district to provide the information it needs, financial data for the next few years, demographics, school site information, traffic patterns and feedback from parents, teachers and staff, either directly or through the unions. It should also obtain information on the financial, employment and student impact on closing a school site. Clearly the financial impact is only one element of the decision-making process, please do not forget the other elements as well!</p> <p>I strongly recommend a non-quorum ad-hoc subcommittee consisting of a few committee members from different stakeholder groups doing a lot of the</p>

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	<p>groundwork collecting and summarizing the required information to eventually help the committee do its independent findings.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>Cary Knoop</p>
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