

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

September 17, 2015
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on September 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Ana Maria Amin presented the following statement at 7:29 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Friday, September 11, 2015. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to our television viewers to this September 17, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. I also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, I may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must sign in one hour prior to the advertised start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

Present: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (arr. 8:08 p.m.), Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez (arr. 8:00 p.m.), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9
Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Diamond Lowney, eighth grade student from George Washington Academy School No. 1.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Amaya Ferere, sixth grade student from Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 and accompanied by violinist Kwao Taylor, teacher at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9.

Mr. Trujillo called for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Jessenia Barranzuela, eighth grade student from Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9.

Mrs. Amin introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mr. Monteiro recognized Mark Detering who donated the American Flag that belonged to his father, Henry August Detering. Mr. Monteiro stated that Henry August Detering was a physical education teacher and coach at Thomas Jefferson High School and Thomas A. Edison Vocational and Technical High School in the 1930's prior to serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a gunnery officer during World War II. Mr. Monteiro introduced Mark Detering who presented the American Flag to Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer. Mr. Monteiro and Board members thanked Mark Detering and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mark Detering thanked the Board of Education for accepting this American Flag and stated that it is an opportunity to recognize many people of his dad's generation. Mr. Detering stated that there were thousands from Elizabeth who did heroic acts during the war and people all over the community pulled together in time of need.

Colonel Robert Golden, Senior Marine Instructor, thanked Mr. Detering and stated that there will be a flag raising ceremony by the cadets at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy. Colonel Golden stated that the flag will be kept on exhibit and will be flown for Veteran's Day, July 4th, and ceremonies throughout the year.

Mrs. Amin introduced first grade students from Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 who performed *El Mismo Sol* by Alvero Soler. Mrs. Amin thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Amin introduced students from George Washington Academy School No. 1 Chorus and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 Chorus who performed *God Bless the USA* by Lee Greenwood. Mrs. Amin thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro congratulated the staff from George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 who came here tonight. Mr. Monteiro recognized Principal Anthony Ziobro and Vice Principal Michael Wansaw from George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Principal Yalitza Torres and Vice Principals Christine Casserly and Lyle Mosely from Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9. Mr. Monteiro stated that both schools have incredible energy and it is contagious and spilling out into our entire district.

Mr. Neron commended George Washington School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 for working together, coming together as a force, and for their unified choir. Mr. Neron stated that this is the energy that we want to encourage and we want to see that all schools excel and work together. Mr. Neron thanked both principals and staff for bringing your teams and children together to do something wonderful.

Board President Amin presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public

participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Amin called upon the first public participant, Giovanna LaRosa, to address the Board.

Giovanna LaRosa, 532 Second Avenue, stated that she represents the Elizabeth Education Organizing Committee (ELEOC) and stated that there are no interpreters for Spanish at the Board meetings, comments are blocked from the City’s webpage, and there is no air conditioning at School No. 15.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Ernestine Smith, to address the Board.

Ernestine Smith, 70 Westfield Avenue, stated that there are no crossing guards for the children in the after school program and items in the newspaper should be censored.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called twice upon the next public participant, Jacqueline Rodriguez, to address the Board. Since Jacqueline Rodriguez did not come forward, Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, stated that children did not receive school agendas and spoke about a personnel matter.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about a personnel matter, the lunch program, and back to school night.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Marie Munn, to address the Board.

Marie Munn, 8 Country Club Lane, thanked the Board for holding the parent workshop with a motivational speaker and requested copies of the booklet be available at each high school for parents who could not attend.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria DaRassi, 420 Fay Avenue, spoke about bullying at a school.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Laura Rico, to address the Board.

Laura Rico, 731 Emerson Avenue, spoke about Board members.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, James Carey, to address the Board.

James Carey, 212 Inslee Place, spoke about a personnel matter.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Pia Carbajal, to address the Board.

Pia Carbajal, 19 Dehart Place, thanked the Board of Education for the teachers and CST who did wonders for her child and spoke about the good back to school night at School No. 8.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Amin declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

The Board went into recess at 8:40 p.m.

Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Trujillo, and Mrs. Amin reconvened in public at 8:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the minutes of the meeting of August 20, 2015 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 6

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Mr. Rodriguez returned to the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez questioned why his comments about a settlement agreement were not mentioned by name in the minutes. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the rest of his comments were in the minutes.

Mr. Kennedy stated that generally we put that we discussed personnel and don't use the person's name.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that everything else was right but he doesn't understand why the name was stricken from the record.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it wasn't stricken. Mr. Kennedy stated that this is not a transcript, it is a summary of the minutes and was summarized as discussion of personnel. Mr. Kennedy asked if Mr. Rodriguez would like to vote on the minutes.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was voting no on the minutes because of that. The vote for the acceptance of the minutes reflects the negative vote.

Mr. Perreira returned to the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira (abstain- M.P.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron (abstain- J.L., N.F.) Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez wished Mr. Cummings good luck at the National Blue Ribbon Schools Annual Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. and stated that he hopes he can bring back another blue ribbon for our Elizabeth High School. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we appreciate everything that they do and the students and how they push those students to do great things.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the requests be approved with a waiver of facility fees except for the requests from City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services, St. Genevieve Athletic Association, Elizabeth PAL, The Patrick School, and At Heart's Length be approved with a waiver of fees.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the request from At Heart's Length is for the whole year.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the request is from October through February.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Our Lady of Fatima), Castillo-Ospina (abstain- NJ Galaxy Soccer Academy, Club Valley, America's United Soccer Academy, Merlin Soccer Club, Our Lady of Fatima), Messrs. Monteiro, Neron (abstain- two requests from

the City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services), Perreira (abstain- At Heart's Length), Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin (abstain- NJ Galaxy Soccer Academy) – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he asked the Properties Committee to review the possibility of increasing the rates and asked if they have met yet and was that on the agenda for the Properties Committee.

Mr. Kennedy explained that the committee has not had the chance to meet since the last meeting but the chairperson had that on the agenda plus some follow-up matters.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that her report includes highlights from InsideEPS beginning with the article *Team Members Accepting the EEE Challenge*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the support of our Board of Education has provided the opportunity to select the team members that will strive to create high performing schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed new principals, new vice principals, and team members and their new assignments throughout the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer wished everyone throughout the district much success and fulfillment as we move forward on our next level of work which is ensuring that every child achieves excellence.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *Alan Blankstein - Noted Author Speaks to EPS Administrators*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Alan Blankstein and Pedro Noguero are the authors of *Excellence through Equity, Five Principles of Courageous Leadership to Guide Achievement for Every Student* and examples of high-leverage practices used by successful schools and districts include de-tracking, leadership capacity development and deployment to build teacher efficacy and close gaps between schools, and successful innovations in curriculum and assessment design powerful classroom practices that lead to success for ELL, special ed, and underserved students as well as for their peers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer quoted Alan Blankstein, "the conditions necessary for building a 'failure is not an option' culture are: 1) teachers pursue a clear, shared purpose for all student learning; 2) teachers engage in collaborative activity to achieve that purpose; and 3) teachers take collective responsibility for all student learning." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it was a wonderful opportunity for our team members to have Alan Blankstein speak at the Welcome Back Administrators Institute.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS to Host McDonald's Student Leadership Summit Program*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in its continued commitment to prepare students for postsecondary education the Elizabeth Public Schools hosted the McDonald's Education Student Leadership Summit on September 16 with over 2,500 students in attendance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the leadership summit created by McDonald's through a

partnership with the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) and CoolSpeak, LLC motivated students to pursue a college career in a fresh and relevant manner while increasing awareness of the RMHC/HACER scholarship established by the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the opening phase included remarks by school district officials and event sponsors prior to a motivational speech provided by Carlos Ojeda, Jr., the founder, president, and CEO of CoolSpeak, LLC who has visited thousands of middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the country and has been recognized as one of the most dynamic speakers in America. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that in the second phase, the McDonald's Education session offered students education-focused workshops dedicated to topics such as life and leadership skills development, financial aid, and scholarship resources. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the final phase included a college and career recruitment fair that featured over 40 local and regional colleges and universities as well as a study lounge for students to gather during the event. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that while the leadership summit provided students with important tools to navigate their journey of selecting a college to attend, parents of attending students had the opportunity to receive valuable information from McDonald's Education in a motivational parent workshop. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the event helped parents support their children toward educational excellence and topics included how to help their child apply for scholarships, how to become more involved in their child's education, how to learn more about their child's dreams, goals and aspirations, and how to help their child reach his or her goals.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the last article is *Elizabeth Proposes Partnership with Special Olympics*. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that by participating in competition programs and training programs as well as the Play Unified School partnership, Special Olympics will work with the Elizabeth Public Schools to create a variety of opportunities for our students with special needs to participate in sports, physical activities and truly inclusive physical education programs. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that Project Unify is receiving the funding that was recently provided by Taneka and Todd Bowles who provided a very generous donation of \$25,000. for the school district to provide enhanced athletic programming for children with special needs. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we truly appreciate the Bowles' family contribution as it is the seed money for what can become a landmark program for our most precious children. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Special Olympics Project Unify is an education and sports based strategy powered by an engaged youth community which will help to increase athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities while creating 'communities of acceptance' for all. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that Unified Sports is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team, and was inspired by a simple principle that training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that Unified Sports teams are made up of people of similar age and ability which makes practices more fun and games for challenging and exciting for all and having sports in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that young people with disabilities don't often get a chance to play on their school sports teams but more and more school districts are adopting the Unified Sports approach that Special Olympics has pioneered. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that Governor Christie signed a bill into law that encourages schools to make opportunities for sports participation available to all students and now Elizabeth is truly up for the challenge in the Special Olympics. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that for almost twenty years Special Olympics has offered sport teams that blend people with and without intellectual disabilities and that is a model that encourages sports and fun and which gets people together to learn more about each other. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that this concludes the InsideEPS report.

Mrs. Amin thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeier for the informative report.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mrs. Hugelmeier, assistant superintendents, principals, administration, teachers, and staff and stated that we have over 26,000 students in 39 buildings and they all came to school last week. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there are a lot of demands, a lot of work, and it is a stressful, happy, exciting time and thanked everyone for the great opening of

schools. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there were a lot of issues but with that many moving parts it's almost impossible not to have any problems but he really does appreciate what everyone is doing. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it's nice to see the energy of a new year and lots of hopes.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that with regard to Special Olympics, he spoke with the Superintendent a few months ago about special education children and their participation in after school activities and in sports. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is proven time and time again that if you participate in afterschool activities the rate that you will graduate is increased almost to the 80 to 90 percentile. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is important to get all of our students, not just our special needs, but all of our students involved in after school activities. Mr. Rodriguez stated that all across the State, not just in Elizabeth, special needs children graduate at a much lower rate than our general education students and this is just one piece in how we attack and try to increase our graduation rate and our participation rate. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Superintendent and her staff for continuing to do that on many levels.

Mr. Perreira stated that he has taken the time this week to visit some of the open houses throughout the district. Mr. Perreira stated that there is a lot of energy from the administrators and teachers starting out the new year and the parents are excited and eager to meet the teachers. Mr. Perreira thanked everyone including the Superintendent, administrators, principals, teachers, and staff who are doing all the work. Mr. Perreira stated that it has been great to see the energy in the district and to keep up the good work. Mr. Perreira stated that the Board is here to support them.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he attended many of the open houses with Mr. Perreira and Mrs. Castillo-Ospina. Mr. Monteiro apologized to the principals, vice principals, and staff for not making all of them but unfortunately some of the open houses are scheduled at exactly the same time as other schools so as they were trying to crisscross town they missed some. Mr. Monteiro thanked the incredible administrators and staff we have and stated that the energy that is taking place in the schools is contagious.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he got to experience some of the Superintendent's pre-opening activities with the administrators and the training sessions with Alan Blankstein and Excellence through Equity. Mr. Monteiro stated that he attended the incredible event we had with almost 3,000 students at Dunn Sports Center for the McDonald's Student Leadership Summit Program. Mr. Monteiro stated that nationally renowned motivational speaker, Carlos Ojeda, really connected with all these young men and women at the high school level. Mr. Monteiro thanked the Superintendent and her team for thinking outside of the box and bringing that kind of energy. Mr. Monteiro stated that corporations and organizations are recognizing this Elizabeth school district and seeking us out and bringing all their programs to our district. Mr. Monteiro stated that the most remarkable thing is that we are now having the collaboration of all these great organizations recognizing the great things that are going on here in this district. Mr. Monteiro stated that he knows the parents are seeing it because as we talk about it being the Number One Urban School District it's incredible and the energy is there and he hopes that it continues.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

Mr. Rodriguez requested to table the Delayed Opening Days for High Schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table the Delayed Opening Days for High Schools.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted (without the Delayed Opening Days for High Schools).

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- O.H.), Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira (abstain- O.H.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin (abstain- Panasonic Foundation Leadership Associates Program) – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

Mr. Trujillo requested to table ASA & Zambrano Architects, LLC, DMR Architects, and USA Architects.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Monteiro, to table ASA & Zambrano Architects, LLC, DMR Architects, and USA Architects.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted (with the exception of ASA & Zambrano Architects, LLC, DMR Architects, and USA Architects).

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (negative- Systems Electronic, Inc.; Zausner, Barbara), Neron (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he believes the Legal Committee did meet and if not, once again he really would like to see some kind of action in place to try to lower these legal fees. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are paying one firm in a month \$348,000. and we need to control and we need to do something about these legal fees. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is money that could be going into simply bussing, buying agendas for our students and this really is affecting our educational programs and this is not a joke. Mr. Rodriguez stated that today we have three lawyers up here, nine school board members, and he doesn't understand why we need so many lawyers at a meeting. Mr. Rodriguez stated that since he has been sitting on the Board we have racked up almost \$10 million in a year and nine months in legal fees. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it can't be that much and the tax increase that was passed was seven and one half million dollars and it could go straight into legal fees. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it can't be like this and we need to do something.

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

Mr. Neron stated we are awarding contracts for transportation and he wants the team to stay in close communication with the principals, administration, and superintendent with regards to transportation. Mr. Neron stated that with a lot of these vendors there has been a lot of issues and confusion usually at the beginning of the year. Mr. Neron stated that we want to be sure that everything can run smoothly going forward from accountability on the busses, to the aids, and drivers, and really not giving our students the best service possible. Mr. Neron stated that let us really monitor those we are giving these contracts to and make sure that they are giving us the highest and best service.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Trujillo requested to table Contract with State Chemical.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to table the Contract with State Chemical.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the report be accepted (with the exception of the Contract with State Chemical).

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; McManimon Scotland & Baumann, LLC; Pashman Stein; Piekarsky & Associates, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – School Violence Awareness Week

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus stated that Salaam Ismail was here a month or two ago and spoke about starting a non-violence task force. Ms. Bathelus stated that to coincide with the School Violence Awareness Week beginning in October this Board should really look into putting together a task force. Ms. Bathelus stated that she knows the President has to appoint the committee or task force but it is something that we really need to do especially with all the violence that has been happening throughout our schools and district.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we should possibly invite Salaam Ismail to come to the next meeting and have him scheduled as one of our key speakers and discuss and support the anti-violence task force here in the schools. Mr. Monteiro stated that we would probably have unanimous support on the Board for it. Mr. Monteiro requested our Superintendent and staff to reach out to Salaam Ismail to schedule him to come to the meeting.

Mr. Neron stated that he understands the intention of the resolution and requested to make an amendment to make this an anti-violence awareness week. Mr. Neron stated that school violence would mean that we are promoting violence. Mr. Neron stated that he understands the direct intention so it would be anti-violence because we are not promoting violence. Mr. Neron stated that we want to make sure that we make our schools aware of anti-violence and practice activities that promote anti-violence in our schools.

Mr. Monteiro excused himself from the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Resolution – Anti-Bullying Week of Respect

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Christopher Columbus

Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Italian-American Heritage Month

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – National Hispanic Heritage Month

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is a teachable moment and the reason why the National Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th to October 15th is because a lot of countries in Central America and South America celebrate their independence sometime within this month. Mr. Rodriguez stated that on two different dates, either 1813 or 1821, they fought and won their independence from Spain.

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Amended Tuition Contract Agreement - Alternative High School 2015-2016 through 2019-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Participation in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Program

Mr. Neron read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that perhaps the President would make an ad hoc committee to work with sustainability leadership teams in our schools. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we wouldn't have to wait every month to get a report and this committee could work more closely with administrators and staff. Mr. Rodriguez stated that if possible we could discuss creating an ad hoc committee to show our commitment to reduce, reuse, and save money and our environment.

Mr. Neron stated that it is an honor to present this resolution. Mr. Neron thanked the Superintendent and her team for the research on looking to certify our schools to become Sustainable New Jersey Schools. Mr. Neron stated that he is challenging all schools to participate in a litter-free zone and sustainable school environment. Mr. Neron stated that twenty or thirty years from now when we look at our City it will be the foundation and implementation of what we taught our children and how we implemented the good moral character of keeping clean communities, a litter-free classroom, litter-free locker room, clean hallway, and a clean neighborhood. Mr. Neron stated that he heard earlier about the condition of a school and it is the responsibility of everyone and not just one but the whole community. Mr. Neron encouraged the principals and vice principals and even when they go on class trips to bring trash bags and make sure they keep the busses clean and aware of their environment so when Elizabeth goes on a trip they know Elizabeth was there because when they left it was cleaner than when they got there. Mr. Neron stated that it is a resolution of action that will get us certified and recognized nationally. Mr. Neron thanked his colleagues and stated that he is the Assistant Director of Health and Human Services so it makes him extremely proud to participate in something like this.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to take this opportunity to address some of the parent concerns. Mr. Trujillo thanked former Board President Marie Munn for bringing the information about the motivational speaker at the parent workshop.

Mr. Trujillo stated that with reference to the air conditioning that a parent wanted to donate to School No. 15 and he assumes it was a window unit. Mr. Trujillo stated that this came up quite a while back during Properties Committee meetings and the reason they can't install window units is because of an electrical problem throughout the building and it would have to be upgraded. Mr. Trujillo explained a similar situation at School No. 14 and the electrical system couldn't handle the load. Mr. Trujillo stated that the goodwill is there and we understand that it is a problem.

Mr. Trujillo stated that with reference to the children running out of school into the street he didn't hear what school it was and he is concerned about it. Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately our responsibility as a Board is to ensure our children are safe while in school and that is not to say that around our properties we can't look out for them but it is not our responsibility. Mr. Trujillo stated that is something that we would have to look to partner with the City to do with perhaps more crossing guards and better awareness in the classroom. Mr. Trujillo stated that is a concern that kids do run and he constantly asks people to be careful when our children are in school, when they are being dropped off and picked up because more than once he has seen when children run out into traffic and it is very dangerous.

Mr. Trujillo stated that with regard to the comments about social media he understood what she was saying in Spanish but it came across as something was lost in the translation through no fault of the translator. Mr. Trujillo stated that as anyone knows him knows that he is very active on social media, he enjoys using it, and it is a great way for him to communicate with

people who support him. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a great way to communicate with parents and taxpayers and is an incredible medium. Mr. Trujillo stated that if you don't use it he suggests that you try it. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has been able to connect with many people through social media. Mr. Trujillo stated that apart from that it allows him the opportunity to express his ideas and as a citizen on his personal page and although he has another page he doesn't use it. Mr. Trujillo stated that mostly he uses his personal Facebook page. Mr. Trujillo stated that the City of Elizabeth has two pages, one belongs to the Mayor in his capacity as Mayor and the other is the City of Elizabeth page on Facebook. Mr. Trujillo stated that he believes that the speaker was referring to several months ago after making several comments especially in reference to the lack of policing in the City and the depletion of the police force and someone, whoever manages the pages for the Mayor and the City, decided that they didn't want to read his comments and thought they were inappropriate. Mr. Trujillo stated that he can assure you that there was no foul language and it was just him and his opinion. Mr. Trujillo stated that after reaching out to the ACLU and lodging a complaint they intervened on his behalf and after he spoke with several attorneys miraculously he was allowed to start posting again and sharing his opinion. Mr. Trujillo stated that if what the lady is saying is true, that she is being blocked on the EPS website Facebook page, he is asking the administration to look into it because he doesn't believe in any form of censorship as long as the argument is respectful and clean especially on the public websites of the City or the school because the children read it and they are exposed to it. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is important that children understand that we do have this right to express ourselves and this is their medium and this is what millennials do now and this is the way they communicate and we have to embrace it and respect it. Mr. Trujillo stated that if this parent wants to express herself and her concerns on the social media and as long as we have a social media page and it is public and he is speaking for himself that she should be allowed to express herself and should not be censored any more than he should be censored as a taxpayer, as a citizen, or as an elected official in this City. Mr. Trujillo stated that people have died over the years to give us that right and he respects that even if he doesn't agree with what they are saying. Mr. Trujillo asked the administration to look into this and if that is the case he wishes it would stop.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would like to make comments about the public speaking comments. Mr. Rodriguez stated that one of the more upsetting things he heard this week is that at the open houses there were people passing out political flyers. Mr. Rodriguez stated that while it is legal because the sidewalk is public property and they can pass out these flyers it disrupts the educational process. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the parents come to speak with the teachers, talk about issues about their son or daughter and they are not there to get political flyers. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is legal and there is nothing we can do if it is on the sidewalk as long as they are not blocking any egress or entrance into the buildings. Mr. Rodriguez asked the two members here who are running for these seats again who are part of that and he doesn't know if they were sanctioned by them or not but he hopes that they would respect the parents and why they are there and not to harass them on their way in. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is not saying that they personally had a hand in it but while it is their right he thinks it is in bad taste.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that with the comments about the conditions at School No. 15 that deplorable is a strong word and he knows a lot of older buildings are tough to maintain. Mr. Rodriguez stated that next year School No. 14 will be 100 years old and we have buildings that are very old and tough to upkeep and that is not an excuse.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we did have to cut transportation to the State minimum which as a Board of Education is our right but he doesn't think it is a good idea especially for the little children. Mr. Rodriguez stated that his point is that we found ways to cut back in lean times on everything except the legal fees. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we really need to cut that back just to find money for many things. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is sorry about the transportation and it continues to be a big issue. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he doesn't think it is right to have a five year old walking a mile or a mile and a quarter even though it is the State law. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have had to cut back and he hopes we can cut back in other areas or at least cut in areas and bring back some of those busses to transport those students.

Mr. Perreira stated that the entire month of September is National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month. Mr. Perreira stated that it is a disease that many people suffer from where the brain has an inability to filter the fluid in the brain in a natural form and it creates pressure and undue issues to the body and in some cases death. Mr. Perreira stated that it is personal to him because his oldest son has suffered from this condition since he has been one month old. Mr. Perreira stated that tomorrow is Hydrocephalus Awareness Day and asked everyone to show their support by wearing something blue and post it on social media with the hashtag #Hydrocephalus. Mr. Perreira stated that if you would like more information about it to please go to his Facebook page where he has posted information.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of five year strategic plan; personnel, specifically, P.G., appointments, tenure, specifically N.C.H., A.H., L.D., and T.M.; Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results and Workers' Compensation Claims, specifically M.B., J.B., G.D., J.O., A.P., F.R., and D.W. and excess workers' compensation settlement. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to go into private session at 10:10 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro returned to the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to reconvene in public session at 12:40 a.m. to continue the meeting and take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to take the Authorizations Report – Delayed Opening Days for High Schools off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Authorizations Report – Delayed Opening Days for High Schools

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the Delayed Opening Days for High Schools be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to take the Supplemental Award of Contracts Report – Contract with State Chemical off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho asked if Mr. Trujillo wanted to take this to the Properties Committee.

Mr. Kennedy explained that Mr. Trujillo thought based on the dollar amount that it needed to be bid upon and asked to see the bids. Mr. Kennedy stated that this was purchased under the State Contract so therefore there was no bid required under the purchasing rules.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report – Contract with State Chemical

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the Contract with State Chemical be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Michael Wansaw

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Diana Pinto-Gomez

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Megan Marx

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez – 7

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Shante Gilmore-Rorie

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Donald Dulorie

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC Officer – Peter G. Vosseler

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Special Services – Ali Abdul-Malik

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Employee Separation Agreement and Release – P.G.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Reimbursement of Excess Workers' Compensation Settlement

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2014-011797) – A.P.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2012-29135) – M.B.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2011-23451) – J.B.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2011-23452) – J.B.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2013-12907-a) – J.O.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2013-12907-b) – J.O.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2013-22531) – G.D.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez – 7

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2014-10619) – F.R.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2010-12947) – D.W.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent’s Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Investigative Results

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period starting January 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2015. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in January 2011 the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, Chapter 122 and in accordance with this law all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a “Week of Respect” and during the Week of Respect school districts are expected to organize activities including, but not limited to, age-appropriate instruction and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution was put before the Board this evening declaring the week of October 5-9, 2015 Week of Respect and all of our schools are planning appropriate activities for this week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 two times each year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30 the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the reporting period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 there were 402 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff and of those cases investigated 64 were confirmed cases of HIB and were affirmed by board members through the July 2015 meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the following Anti-Bullying Specialists, Anti-Bullying Specialist Alternates, and Anti-Bullying Coordinator conducted these investigations including Ann Schpakow, Maria Brito, Jessica Sofranko, Safiyyah Howell, Lisa O’Leary, Jasmine Lee, Jacqueline Cajuste, Lisa Rappa, Felice Adamcik, Ali Abdul-Malik, Kerry O’Connor, Deborah Leff, Wilma Helm, Mary Pat LaVecchia, Valerie Hendon, Maria Vindas, Lourdes Soto, Colleen Reynolds, Christine Lillis-Flaherty, Sarah LaFace, Nancy Nieves, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Theresa Guevara, Natalie Haiken, Dayna Gil, Ilona Sekiewicz, Darnella Boles, Andrea Giuca, Lauren Czarnecki, Cindy Lichtenstein, Amelia Joanne Turner, Rosa Dulzaides, Aleina Cuza-Murray, Linda Lewis, Margaret Lundrigan, Natasha Morrisey, Antonio Sapio, Fabi Ramos, Lisa Baginski-Matlosz, Christine Rappa, Maria Cabrera, Jason Colcol, Eva Exelbirt, Joseph Sanchez, Sam Bernstein, Megan Marx, and Peter Vosseler.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 10 incidents based on race/national origin, 6 incidents based on color, 0 incident based on religion, 1 incidents based on ancestry, 12 incidents based on gender, 6 incidents based on sexual orientation, 1 incidents based on gender identity or expression, 5 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 49 incidents based on

other targeted bases. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 0 incidents involved a gesture, 0 incidents involved a written communication, 49 incidents were verbal, 27 incidents were physical, and 10 incidents involved an electronic communication. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 31 out-of-school suspensions, 11 in-school detentions, and 32 other disciplinary actions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additional services such as in-house counseling, parent conferences, skill development, outpatient treatment, and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2015 the district provided appropriate HIB training to guidance counselors and social workers and to new staff and support staff in the district and additionally, the district provided extensive and specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all Anti-Bullying Specialists and Alternates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that non-certificated staff also received training and new school level administrators and new HIB staff received training the HIBster reporting program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked if there is anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report. Since no dialogue transpired and no comments were made regarding the Chief School Administrator's presentation on harassment, intimidation and bullying, Mrs. Hugelmeyer closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Amin thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for the report.

Mr. Monteiro congratulated the vice principals and supervisors appointed tonight and wished them continued success in what they are doing in the schools and may it become contagious throughout our entire district.

Mr. Neron welcomed back our administrators, students, parents, faculty and administration and may they have a wonderful and successful school year.

Mrs. Amin asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was not any old business to discuss, Mrs. Amin asked if there was any new business to discuss.

On a motion by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary