

APPROVED
Bd. Mtg. 2-16-17

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

January 5, 2017
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Prior to the scheduled reorganization meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. held at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy, 40 Morrell Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, Board President Charlene Bathelus welcomed everyone.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Janice Figueroa, twelfth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Angela Motato, tenth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Alexandra Hechavarria, twelfth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that it is with a heavy heart that she informs everyone that we have lost a dear friend and team member, Mrs. Florence Brennan, who passed away this morning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Mrs. Florence Brennan served over 45 years in our school district and was loved by all who had the privilege of working alongside her. Mrs. Hugelmeyer called for a moment of silence.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Ariel Cunha, twelfth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy who recited a Portuguese poem, *O Universo não é uma Idéia Minha* by Fernando Pessoa. Ms. Bathelus thanked Ariel Cunha for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Ram Sejour, twelfth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy who recited a French Creole poem, *Minerai Noir* by Rene Depestre. Ms. Bathelus thanked Ram Sejour for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Juan Puerto, tenth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy who recited a Spanish poem, *Sueño Infantil* by Antonio Machado. Ms. Bathelus thanked Juan Puerto for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Senator Ray Lesniak, Mayor Chris Bollwage, State Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados, Elizabeth City Council President Carlos Torres, and City Councilwoman Patricia Perkins Auguste who were in attendance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced students in the Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy Jazz Band who performed *Lady is a Tramp* written by Richard Rodgers, arranged by Rick Stitzel and *Girl Talk*, written by Neal Hefti, arranged by Mark Taylor featuring ninth grade student Camila Osorio on alto sax and twelfth grade student Giancarlo Acuna on tenor sax. Ms. Bathelus thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Board members elect Diane Barbosa and Stanley Neron took the oath of office administered by Senator Raymond Lesniak. Board member elect Jose Rodriguez took the oath of office administered by City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. presented a Certificate of Election to newly sworn in Board members Diane Barbosa, Stanley Neron, and Jose Rodriguez.

Ms. Bathelus thanked God for giving her the opportunity to be the President of the Board of Education. Ms. Bathelus stated that as her presidency comes to an end she thanked her fellow colleagues, Superintendent, administration office, principals, staff members, Elizabeth community, and everyone present tonight. Ms. Bathelus stated that all of this would not be possible without the support of many and thanked everyone who contributed to the successes during the past twelve months. Ms. Bathelus stated that we accomplished a lot together in this year. Ms. Bathelus stated that a core mission of the Board assembled in January 2016 and a significant goal that she set for her stewardship was to generate savings that would further support teaching and learning. Ms. Bathelus stated that initiative was highlighted with a reduction in legal fees of \$5 million in 2015 to \$1.6 million in 2016 for a savings of \$3.4 million and enhanced telecommunication rebates have resulted in a savings of \$1.7 million. Ms. Bathelus stated that we conducted a Board retreat, initiated the Adopt-a-School Program, we created the Community Connect Newsletter, we returned the championship banners to the Dunn Sports Center, we participated in the Operation Prom Dress, the Elizabeth Public School Lights It Up Blue for Autism, and with the Union County Freeholders Board for our first summer technology program. Ms. Bathelus stated that we responded to many of the community needs and we opened two new high schools. Ms. Bathelus stated that being a president of the Elizabeth Board of Education has been a demanding task. Ms. Bathelus stated that her fellow colleagues have challenged her beyond measure and thanked each and every one because those tests have made her a stronger individual and the obstacles they faced this year also taught them great lessons. Ms. Bathelus thanked them for their constructive ideas and suggestions which have propelled the Board of Education toward growth and progress. Ms. Bathelus gave thanks and gratitude to the members of the team, members of the Board, members of the administration offices, teachers, principals, staff members, and members of the public who have provided an important base for the success of last year and with tremendous dedication over the last year they have all made a difference to her and even more importantly to the students of this district. Ms. Bathelus stated that she welcomed the next president into this wonderful experience and wished them well in this great position of responsibility. Ms. Bathelus stated that being the youngest and the first of Haitian descent to serve as president has had a lot of personal meaning to her. Ms. Bathelus stated that it is her hope that the young boys and girls learning in our school district each and every day hoping to achieve their dreams will serve as your inspiration and your moral compass during the year as they did for her. Ms. Bathelus stated that she is handing over the baton of achievement and challenges of our illustrious school district to the new Board president. Ms. Bathelus stated that she is excited to see the next president who will take over the reins of the Elizabeth Board of Education and she is sure that they will continue the great development and growth of our district. Ms. Bathelus stated that if you remain committed and persevere despite what challenges stand before you she believes that you will come out thriving after your tenure as president. Ms. Bathelus stated that as president they have an opportunity to further guide our schools to be one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation and move toward becoming one of the next generation of Elizabeth's success stories and the greater promise of the education of Elizabeth's sons and daughters. Ms. Bathelus stated that she appreciates the outpouring of love and acts of kindness for her and her family during the last two months and they will forever be grateful. Ms. Bathelus stated that she will continue to work tirelessly for our children and the Elizabeth Public Schools as well as the families of our great City.

The members of the Board of Education met for the purpose of reorganization on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy, 40 Morrell Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. presented the following statement at 7:55 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is the annual reorganization 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 The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on December 21, 2016. In addition, this notice is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Mitchell Building, 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.

There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must sign in prior to the commencement of public participation 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: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez – 7

Absent: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Perreira – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenro, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Kennedy stated that tonight the Board is meeting for the purpose of reorganization. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Education Act requires that at the organization meeting the Board shall elect from its members a President and a Vice President who shall serve for terms of one year. Nominations will be made from among the membership of the Board present. Elections shall be by the majority of the vote present and voting which means this is the majority of the quorum. When nominations are made they do not require a second, however, in order to close nominations there must be a motion to second and then a vote to close nominations for the office of President or Vice President.

Mr. Kennedy called for nominations for Board President.

Ms. Bathelus nominated Mr. Neron for President.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Nina, that nominations be closed.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez – 7

Negative: None

The following vote was taken on the election of President.

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Neron having received the required number of votes was declared President.

Mr. Neron welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their support. Mr. Neron congratulated the newly sworn in Board members.

Mr. Neron called for nominations for Vice President.

Mr. Rodriguez nominated Mrs. Carvalho for Vice President.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that nominations be closed.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

The following vote was taken on the election of Vice President.

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho having received the required number of votes was declared Vice President.

Board President Neron asked the newly elected and re-elected Board members if they would like to speak.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked everyone for being here tonight and the voters of the City of Elizabeth for electing her to this position. Mrs. Barbosa thanked her family, friends and the community that supported her and stood by her throughout this journey. Mrs. Barbosa stated that when she began this journey she had a vision of a voice that isn't heard, is neglected and is not understood and that she wants to be your voice and let it be heard. Mrs. Barbosa stated that fear is not an option but with a leap of faith we can make a difference for our children, our faculty, and for our school district. Mrs. Barbosa stated that there is a saying that if you want to go fast go alone but to go far we must go together despite gender, color, beliefs, or social status. Mrs. Barbosa stated that as you look up here tonight you see your school board members and each of us is smart alone but the nine of us together will be brilliant and provide an exceptional school district for all. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she is privileged and honored to be your newly elected Board member and her heart skips a beat maybe because she is nervous or maybe because she cares so much. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she began this six months ago when she introduced herself to this great City of Elizabeth as a resident, wife, pharmacist, and mother of twins that attend our school district. Mrs. Barbosa stated that now she is a newly elected Board member and is ready to work and serve you, the parent, the employee, and the student and be the voice of the child that does not speak. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she stands here with her fellow Board members and says let's do this and let's make it happen.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked all the students who performed and those who recited the poems. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is a line in the poem by Machado that the gentleman still has all his hair and it is all dark. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was looking at pictures from three years ago when he had no gray in his hair and beard and he looked happy and stress-free. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he looked in the mirror today and sees stress and gray in his hair and in his beard but he thinks he looks better because he has been able to make a difference and it has been hard. Mr. Rodriguez stated that looking back he knows he stands upon the shoulders of thousands of people who he has met along the way. Mr. Rodriguez stated that those are people who have helped, who have pushed, who have stood beside him, who have stood in front of him and all of them have helped and he appreciates it. Mr. Rodriguez thanked his father, his mother, his brother, his family, friends, and everyone. Mr. Rodriguez quoted Niccolo Machiavelli, "It must be realized that there is nothing more difficult to plan, more uncertain of success, or more dangerous to manage than the establishment of a new order of things. For those who introduce change make enemies of all those who have derived advantage from the old order." Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are in the process here of a systematic change, a positive change and we are not looking to revolutionize the

system, and we are not looking to throw everything out because there are a lot of things that work and there a lot of things that don't work. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we continue to strive for excellence and along the way we will make mistakes and that is okay as long as our heart is in the right place. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are preparing our children for a future that none of us can fathom. Mr. Rodriguez stated that technology is at a pace that years from now children will laugh at the electronics we have now. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have to prepare the students for jobs that don't even exist and things we can't even think about. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have to have that forward thinking and we need your help and we need to work together. Mr. Rodriguez stated that in this environment every day we have to work and do more with less. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the State is giving us less money to educate more children and children who are in high need every day. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have children from all over the world that maybe have never been in an education system and we have to educate them all and we need your help. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the schools can only do so much. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we know it takes a village to raise a child and it takes a school system, it takes parents, and it takes a community. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it takes all of you and we need you. Mr. Rodriguez stated that if you see some of our students in the streets doing wrong, tell them and teach them and don't lose an opportunity to teach our children what is right and wrong. Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone and stated that he looks forward to your help. Mr. Rodriguez stated to those who are behind him pushing, next to him, going with him and even those who have blocked his way he appreciates everything they have done because they have helped him.

Mr. Neron asked if any Board members would like to make comments.

Miss Goncalves wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for being here tonight. Miss Goncalves stated that she is starting her second year as a Board member and in 2017 she looks forward to continuing her advocacy for all of the children in our school district. Miss Goncalves stated that she will continue to strive to work for the betterment of our children as they will always come first. Miss Goncalves thanked everyone for continuing to allow her to serve here in our district. Miss Goncalves wished everyone a healthy and prosperous new year.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is truly an honor to be surrounded by her colleagues on the Elizabeth Board of Education, the supporting parents of our students, and all of our elected officials. Mrs. Carvalho thanked her parents for the sacrifices they have made, especially her mother, since she began this journey, her husband, and stated that she is extremely proud of her sons and the young men they have become. Mrs. Carvalho stated that in a world where women are underrepresented she is here but instead of standing as individuals we need to stand united. Mrs. Carvalho stated that as Board of Education members we represent you and we want to make you proud. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is their job to stand up for our students when they believe that no one is beside them. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is their job to make every student and parent feel safe to drop their children off at school and believe that we as a Board are doing everything we can to offer them the best education possible. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is our time to stand together in the fight against gender and racial disparities and our time to implement regulations to prevent and address bullying because it is crucially affecting our children. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we need to become better and work together to make the Elizabeth Board of Education the greatest. Mrs. Carvalho stated that in this coming year she vows to our students and parents to work harder than ever to reassure them that we are proactively moving forward towards a more successful year. Mrs. Carvalho stated that for us to move forward we must make our students our top priority, for us to move forward we need to stand against bullying, and for us to move forward there must be no racial differences and this is our time to take action. Mrs. Carvalho stated that to always keep in mind that the starting point of all of our achievements is desire and she desires for us to continue to be great. Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone and wished everyone an amazing 2017.

Mr. Neron gave honor to God, first and foremost, who is the head of his life and gave him thanks. Mr. Neron welcomed all dignitaries, our State Senator, Assembly Representatives, Mayor, Superintendent of Schools, City Council President and City Council, fellow Board members, staff, families and friends. Mr. Neron stated that it is with great honor that he takes the seat of President tonight for the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Neron thanked his wife Rejeanne and daughter Davina for supporting him during this journey along with his parents and his brother Mike and his wife. Mr. Neron thanked Senator Lesniak and Mayor Bollwage for all of their support and guidance. Mr. Neron thanked all of the constituents and citizens of this City for having the confidence in our team to elect us into these seats to serve them and the children of the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Neron thanked outgoing President Bathelus for laying the foundation to a brighter future here in our district. Mr. Neron thanked the awesome team of One Team One Dream and the countless volunteers and people who believe in our vision and without them we would not be here today. Mr. Neron stated that tonight he stands on the backs of many who made it possible for him to sit in this seat such as Chessie Roberts, the first African American Educator to work in this district, Stephen Sampson, acclaimed civil rights leaders here in the City of Elizabeth, Ella Hopson, youth and human rights advocate, Gil Chapman, first African American Councilman in the City of Elizabeth, Charles Harris, school principal, James Carey who has been with the movement for over 25 years to hold people accountable, Councilwoman Patricia Perkins Auguste, first African American councilwoman elected in the City of Elizabeth, and the late Catherine Santilien, founder of Jefferson Park Ministries and advocate for the Haitian community. Mr. Neron stated that this is important because none of our achievements come without a fight, hard work, and defying the odds. Mr. Neron stated that in 1992 he was told here in this very district that he was not college material but in 2017 he is not only a college graduate but he is the Board of Education President. Mr. Neron stated that in 2007 it was said that Senator Barack Obama was not fit to be president and in 2017 after an eight year term he is not only our outgoing president but one of the most influential and important presidents of our time. Mr. Neron stated that we still have a lot of work to be done in our communities to educate our children and families properly about race, culture, and diversity and these discussions must happen. Mr. Neron stated that we must open our minds and hearts to really learn and not avoid the very issues that divide us. Mr. Neron stated that it starts here, it starts now in every home and in every classroom and we must all learn from each other and grow. Mr. Neron stated that it is imperative that we make sure that we look at addressing diversity and curriculum of inclusion in the classroom, continue to improve parent education and family strengthening, make special needs a priority, and we revisit policy and be very clear that when it comes to spending for our special needs community we do what is right. Mr. Neron stated that we must make sure we support our staff and teachers and continue to open the lines of communications. Mr. Neron stated that we must also continue to advocate with local, state, and federal officials to make sure that our district is adequately funded so that we not only maintain the standards of education but we exceed expectation. Mr. Neron stated that despite the odds we have been able to do more with less, however, it is not fair to our staff and teachers when faced with challenges but are limited in resources and advocacy must continue. Mr. Neron praised the Superintendent, teachers, and our children of our district for achieving and defying the odds. Mr. Neron stated that he hopes that his life and the Board members that stand before you can serve as an example to our students that they can defy the odds whenever the door is shut that they face and they can push that door wide open and achieve their goals. Mr. Neron stated that our advocacy for resources must always continue. Mr. Neron stated that the future of our City depends on us and it is imperative that we focus on making the necessary improvements needed to become a model of education in this nation. Mr. Neron stated that if you really want to get to know your city visit a school and look at the city's investment and the children's capacity to learn and grow. Mr. Neron stated that when a city makes the children its priority the seeds for hope is planted in all. Mr. Neron stated that it is strikingly apparent that the Elizabeth school system is on the right track. Mr. Neron invited everyone to join us on this journey and through Community Connect you can see our office hours, talk to us, share your concerns and let's discover solutions together. Mr. Neron stated that there is no I in we and together we can achieve greatness and do the unthinkable.

Resolution – Appointment of Co-General Counsel

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked Mr. Jonathan Williams to join us on stage as our Co-General Counsel.

Resolution – Introduction of Rules of Governance for First Reading

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Board President Neron presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. 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.”

Mr. Neron called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC), field trips, PARCC, the high school dropout rate, public participation at committee meetings, the cost for the forensic audit, retro checks, and holding each Board member accountable.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, congratulated Mr. Neron and stated that the meetings have not started on time and that field trips are not fair to all the children. Mrs. Moreira spoke about graduation credits, retro checks, no contract for the teachers, and holding the Board members accountable.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little, student, recommended a Student Advisory Committee with two students from each high school academy to discuss their concerns with the Board and administration.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Patricia Gallante, 750 Grier Avenue, congratulated the new Board members, President, and Vice President and spoke about the meetings not starting on time and the need for a parent committee. Ms. Gallante stated that the Board members are there to represent the people.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Araceli Espesel, to address the Board.

Araceli Espesel, 240 Palmer Street, stated that she spoke at the last meeting and still has not received a response to her phone call about the special needs problem at School No. 30.

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

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded to Ms. Espesel that a meeting with her was scheduled for January 4 and Ms. Espesel asked for it to be rescheduled. Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen to speak with Ms. Espesel.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that two of our speakers this evening referred to the issue regarding retro pay. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the contract between the Elizabeth Board of Education and the Elizabeth Education Association for 2015-2016 was settled by Memorandum of Agreement that was dated June 8, 2016. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the district agreed to a 2% increase in compensation for that year and agreed to make retroactive payments to members to reflect that amount. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were delays in the issuance of the retroactive checks because of a disagreement as to the amount and the method of the calculation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she announced that retroactive checks would be issued before the holidays and the district issued \$2.4 million to members on December 21, 2016. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they also announced a tentative settlement for 2016-2017 with an additional 2% increase for members' compensation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this settlement requires final approval and ratification from the membership. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additional checks will be going out in February as previously stated. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is her position that the full 2% retroactive increase for school year 2015-2016 has been paid to members of the EEA as reflected in their paychecks for this year as well as the checks that were sent out in December. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that discussions with the EEA continue to take place and we are working very hard to be fair to each of our team members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that any EEA member having questions about the formula that was used to calculate the amount of their individual retroactive check may call her office for an appointment in order to have those questions answered. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she has made herself available every day from 3:30 to 6:30 in order to help to clarify their questions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that please try to understand that we will do everything in our power to treat the EEA and its membership fairly, equally, and with recognition that we all must focus on the obligations that we owe to our students.

Mr. Neron thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer and stated that this is something that the Board is greatly concerned with. Mr. Neron stated that we want to make sure that we support our teachers and that we don't put our teachers and staff in a situation where they feel less than important or not even appreciated. Mr. Neron stated that it would be unfair of us to govern in that fashion. Mr. Neron stated that they will do everything in their power to make sure that all lines of communication are open and everything is clear.

Mr. Neron stated that he is deferring the appointment of the standing committees and designation of representatives until a later date except for the Union County Educational Services Commission Representative.

Union County Educational Services Commission Representative

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Nina, that Mr. Rodriguez represent the Board on the Union County Educational Services Commission.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Official Results of the School Board Election

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Designation of Official Media Services

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Designation of Depositories for School Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Bank of America/Merrill Lynch), Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron (abstain- Bank of America/Merrill Lynch) – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Special Counsel

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Insurance/Health Benefit Consultant

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Auditor and Forensic Auditor

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Chief Medical Inspector

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Medical Inspectors

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Treasurer of School Moneys

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Architects

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Engineers

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Environmental Consultants

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Construction Managers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Schedule of Board Meetings

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

Mr. Neron stated that we will be doing something different this year. Mr. Neron stated that in light of transparency and a more collective working Board and inclusiveness of the school community we will have two board meetings per month. Mr. Neron stated that one will serve as an agenda setting meeting where we get a chance to hear what is being presented at the official meeting. Mr. Neron stated that today we are approving two sets of dates which will be on our website and also available to the public so that you can properly schedule the meetings and not only start on time but end in an adequate manner. Mr. Neron stated that we want to put an end to the marathon meetings that end at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning and we want to put that to rest. Mr. Neron stated that with our two meetings a month we can accomplish that goal starting on time and ending on time and being able to go back to our families and loved ones, being able to get proper rest so that we can be functioning citizens the following day. Mr. Neron thanked the Superintendent for leading us in that direction and this Board for getting us to this point.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Resolution – Invoking the Doctrine of Necessity

Mr. Kennedy read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Neron thanked everyone for attending the reorganization meeting. Mr. Neron stated that sometimes we look at our political adversaries as opponents and we go toe to toe but at the end of the day

they serve and do the work of the community. Mr. Neron thanked Board Member Carlos Trujillo who sat on this Board for nine years and asked for a round of applause for his service. Mr. Neron stated that some may say that we never saw eye to eye but that it does not matter at the end of the day when you are a public official and make the sacrifice and take the time out of your life to take on this charge and this duty and it is an honor to do so. Mr. Neron thanked Carlos Trujillo for his nine years of service and this Board of Education thanks him for his service. Mr. Neron wished everyone a happy new year.

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

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