

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 11-21-13

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

October 17, 2013  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on October 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex, 1003 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Vice President Elcy Castillo-Ospina welcomed everyone to Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex and thanked Principal George Mikros, Vice Principal Valerie Delceg, and the staff for allowing us to have our meeting here. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced the Board members and Acting Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer.

Board Vice President Elcy Castillo-Ospina presented the following statement at 7:45 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, October 11, 2013. 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 October 17, 2013 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, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo – 7

Absent: Messrs. Perreira, Monteiro – 2

Acting Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Francisco González gave the invocation.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vladimir Carrasco, eleventh grade student at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Jennifer Silva, twelfth grade student at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Vladimir Carrasco, eleventh grade student at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy who performed a tango dance to *Torn Love*, music by Nathan Lanier and choreographed by twelfth grade students Melanie Landa and Michell Ramos-Reyes from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students in the Terence C. Reilly Musical Notes Middle School Choir who performed *Candles in the Wind*, by Danve and Jean Perry and *Song for the Unsung Hero* by Joseph H. Martin. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Resolution - Dr. John Dobosiewicz

Mr. González read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7

Negative: None

Mr. González stated that we mourn the loss of Dr. John Dobosiewicz who was a dear friend of the Elizabeth Public Schools community and a role model at the high school. Mr. González stated that he promoted environmental awareness through his efforts in the Elizabeth community and will be greatly missed. Mr. González introduced the family of Dr. John Dobosiewicz and stated that this plaque is a small token of appreciation from the Board and the Elizabeth Public Schools community to recognize all that he did for our children. Mr. González and Board members presented the family of Dr. John Dobosiewicz with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized Fabrice Juin, senior at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, who was named as News 12 New Jersey's First Scholar Athlete for the Fall season. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated Fabrice Juin and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized teachers from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 for Excellence in the Arts including Steve Almeida, Kamaljit Bhamra-Watson, and Brendan Lowe, instrumental music; Rodney Briscoe, Marlenes Luvins, and Holly Williams, vocal music; Marcelo DosSantos,

Roger Gonzalez, Michelle Greene, and Brent Jones, art; Tiffany Festa-Sneddon, performing arts drama; and Madruga Henriquez, dance. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo stated that everyone should visit Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and that it is a special place and one of our shining stars in the district. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are so proud to be able to have that type of excellence in the district and hope to have that across the district. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are a role model and thanked the staff who work so hard under the direction of Principal Jennifer Cedeno.

Mr. Padlo recognized teachers from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy for Excellence in the Arts including Edward D'Alessandro, Jennifer Feliciano, Kerrie Messineo, Ana Pineiro, and Mary Reilly, art; Diego Gallardo, Yasmin Maher, Kelly McAleney, Steven Sabet, Ellen Schwartz, Sandra Toll, Dale Valenti, and Eileen Walsh, music; Dennis McSorley, industrial arts; Carmen Melchionna, fashion; Evelyn Molinares, and Michelle Rodriguez, English. Mr. Padlo and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Nazco recognized staff from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy as Stars of Excellence including John Byrne, AVID site coordinator; Amanda Camp-Colon, dance; Donald Conner and Gina Pereira, English; Lauren Czarnecki and Wendy Maravi, guidance; Sonia Dieguez-Salermo, secretary; Harry Kelada, math; Michael Loenser, physical education; and Brendan Meade, Advanced Placement and social studies. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated the staff members and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. George Mikros, Principal of Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, introduced Kristin Wenger, Director of New Jersey Arts Education Partnership Program, who presented the 2013 NJ MODEL School in the Arts Project Award.

Kristin Wenger, Director of New Jersey Arts Education Partnership Program, stated that model schools are selected for excellence in the arts, scoring in the top 10% of the New Jersey Arts Education Census Project while teaching all four art disciplines including art, music, dance, and theater. Ms. Wenger stated that 46 schools were invited to apply and only 5 schools were selected. Ms. Wenger stated that 2 schools in Elizabeth were invited to apply and both Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy were awarded 2013 NJ MODEL School in the Arts. Ms. Wenger congratulated Mrs. Jennifer Cedeno, Principal of Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and Mr. Michael Ojeda, Principal of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy and presented each with plaques and banners for their schools.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy for being 2 of only 5 schools in New Jersey selected as 2013 NJ MODEL School in the Arts.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized former Board President Rafael Fajardo who was in attendance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced a video presentation showcasing the AVID program at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy with students including Jose Araujo, Gianella Salinas, Saamad Bethea, Constanza Silva, Anthony Tassi, and Danye Kearney.

Board Vice President Castillo-Ospina 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. Castillo-Ospina called upon the first public participant, Rose Carreto, to address the Board.

Rose Carreto, President of the Elizabeth Education Association, stated that tonight she invited EEA members who are food service/cafeteria workers to attend this Board meeting with her. Mrs. Carreto stated that there are 3,857 EEA members, including 2,315 professional staff and 1,542 educational support personnel. Ms. Carreto stated that tonight they have joined together to celebrate a new beginning and as an association they are here to acknowledge Olga Hugelmeyer as the new Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Carreto wished the Superintendent much success in her new position and stated that as an association they have worked well with Mrs. Hugelmeyer in the past and hope to continue to do so in the future.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer thanked Rose Carreto for the honor and stated that they have worked together for many years. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she believes in the importance of professional learning communities and the reason we are so successful today is because of the outstanding team members we have in our organization, our assistants, food service workers, custodians, secretaries, teachers, and administrators. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that without our team members we would not be where we are today, without important relationships such as the relationship we have with the EEA, the Principals and Supervisors Association, and without the support of our Board we would not be where we are today. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is truly grateful for this opportunity and considers it a privilege to be in this position. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Ms. Carreto and stated that she looks forward to many years of working together.

Ms. Carreto stated that one of the food service workers asked her to acknowledge Vice Principal Delceg for all of the lovely decorations here tonight.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked Vice Principal Delceg for the beautiful decorations.

Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2013 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7

Negative: None

#### Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of August 2013

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7

Negative: None

#### Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Padlo, Trujillo (abstain- V.T., C.V., G.V., N.B., E.K.), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nazco – 1

Negative: None

#### Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to comment on the waiver of all fees, in particular items 1, 2, and 3 which are requests by City Councilmen for the use of our facilities. Mr. Trujillo stated that as you all are aware over the last two months he has been asking City Hall to please permit us to host a town hall meeting in Town Hall so we could have a public discussion with the members of the committee with emphasis on the tax situation in the City. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has been to several committee meetings and has asked for them to please work with him and he saw one response and does not know if there was a second response. Mr. Trujillo stated that the first response was that it was not available and he can't imagine what they are doing at Town Hall other than having a meeting every few days with the alcohol license commission or regular scheduled committee meeting and he does not think the room gets a lot of use. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks they do not want to meet with us. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is going to support these in good faith and allow them to use our facilities as he believes they do belong to the public

and we should help City Council. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is going to ask publicly that our friends at City Council and perhaps Ms. Bathelus can join him in this effort since at the last meeting they spoke so highly of her and she has many friends there, and he hopes that she can help build this bridge and get this meeting done. Mr. Trujillo stated that the committee president at the time was concerned with the amount of people who would attend this meeting and he doesn't know if he was just referring to the room size. Mr. Trujillo stated that he hopes we can agree to have the meeting, and the meeting should take place and the residents should have the opportunity to express their concerns and be educated about what the tax levy is in Elizabeth and how it works. Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation politically driven and it has really caused a lot of confusion to the residents in this City. Mr. Trujillo stated that he can't imagine why they won't have a meeting and we are willing to outreach to them and we can do it. Mr. Trujillo stated that if the facility is the problem like he mentioned to the committee president then let's agree to have a meeting first and we can find another venue if he thinks that many people are going to show up. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has gone to several of the meetings and they are not well attended and perhaps something of this sort would bring some attention to the problem and some interest. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows a lot of taxpayers that would like to go and really see the presentation. Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately they just keep blowing us off and he is quite offended because he is a taxpayer in this City, apart from being a member of this Board and an elected official for nearly seven years now. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks they have the right to use City Hall and quite frankly, if it is available he doesn't see why they are denying us the access. Mr. Trujillo stated that they have no problem asking to use our buildings for their functions so why not let us use Town Hall. Mr. Trujillo asked his colleagues to vote in the affirmative for this and he is going to do it in good faith. Mr. Trujillo asked also that they support him in trying to get this meeting done and perhaps attend one of the council meetings with him and voice their concern and support for his cause.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she has two comments. Ms. Bathelus responded to Mr. Trujillo that he has never reached out to her in regards to partnering and working on this situation or his concerns. Ms. Bathelus stated that he can definitely sit down with her together and see how they can make this work since he requested that she help him.

Ms. Bathelus stated that back in the August or September meeting we discussed that if any councilmember requested to use our facilities they would have to go on a month to month basis. Ms. Bathelus stated that in the first request that council person is asking for October, November, and December. Ms. Bathelus asked that we just approve October and November and they have to request it again at the next meeting for us to approve the December request. Ms. Bathelus stated that is what we discussed at the last meeting or the meeting prior to that.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he appreciates the offer by Ms. Bathelus and is taking her up on the offer and he is inviting her here today to please help him with that.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he does remember that being done and perhaps the attorney can clarify it but he remembers the request from the City Councilmen for the use of facilities to be month to month. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't have a problem supporting it the way it is. Mr. Trujillo stated that he made a point of it last time because he had an issue that they refused to let us use their facility and that they continue to argue the fact that we misappropriate taxes but meanwhile it is okay for us to spend money to open the doors for them. Mr. Trujillo stated that in particular he had issue with Mr. Gonzales in the second ward but he promised in good faith that he would continue to work towards a resolution.

Ms. Bathelus stated that to be fair to all the council people we should do it the same way. Ms. Bathelus stated that if we are going to do a month to month basis and that is what we need to do every month, we can't keep flip flopping it back and forth and allow it for certain council members and not for everyone else. Ms. Bathelus stated that if we are going to do it on a month to month basis that is fine, if we are going to do it on a yearly basis then that is fine as well. Ms.

Bathelus stated that we need to decide if it is going to be on a month to month basis or for the entire year.

Mr. Kennedy explained that his office has been requesting from council members for a month to month basis. Mr. Kennedy stated that the request under discussion is from a civic association, the Frank Mazza Civic Association, but it is an independent body. Mr. Kennedy stated that is why when the request came in it was not treated as following the request for council members on a month to month basis.

Mr. Trujillo stated that for a point of clarification that although it bears the name of the Honorable Frank Mazza who is the councilman in the sixth ward, it is actually a civic association that bears his name. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is not a request from a City Councilman as are those from Councilman Cedeno in the fourth ward and Councilman Gonzales. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are following what we set out last month.

Mr. Kennedy stated that is correct and the letter was not sent by the Councilman but was sent by the leader of the Civic Association.

Ms. Bathelus stated that it is for the Civic Association and not for the community meetings like discussed before.

The motion was carried by the following vote:  
Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- Frank Mazza Civic Association), Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7  
Negative: None

#### Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:  
Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7  
Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:  
Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 7  
Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer announced that our gifted and talented program at William F. Halloran School No. 22 will have another opportunity to grow in size as well as quality when it is provided the opportunity to locate at a new facility that the N.J. Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) will provide to the taxpayers of Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the new school will have grades 2 through 8 and the target date for opening this school is 2016. Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Director of Plant, Property, & Equipment Luis Couto to present an update of the new School No. 22.

Director of Plant, Property, & Equipment Luis Couto stated that it is a pleasure to be before the Board to provide a quick update of the progress of the project that finally will end up providing the Elizabeth Board of Education with another school, William F. Halloran School No. 22. Mr. Couto stated that there has been a working committee formed by members of the district, members from the NJ Schools Development Authority, and the New Jersey Department of Education and has been meeting for the last few months to develop and eventually finalize the design of the new school. Mr. Couto stated that the new school will be an elementary school, grades 2 through 8, with six classes of each grade. Mr. Couto stated that the building will be 15% to 20% larger than the other elementary schools we have been building and will have the capacity for 880 to 1,000 students with a projected opening in 2016. Mr. Couto stated that the school is proposed to be built adjacent to the Upper Academy and will be based on academics and the arts with a very demanding curricula. Mr. Couto stated that it will have a gymnasium, cafeteria, iLeap media center, multi-purpose room, six science rooms, three art rooms, four music rooms, and a dance studio as well as community and support spaces. Mr. Couto stated that all the assembly and community spaces will be on the first floor and the academic tower containing all of the classrooms will be in the back of the school facing the river. Mr. Couto stated that there will be a driveway across the property which will allow the busses to go around, circle and unload without interfering with the busses of the Upper Academy. Mr. Couto stated that we allowed enough space for a playground and parking in between the two schools. Mr. Couto stated that the next stage is to work on the systems which include deciding the wall materials, air conditioning system, security systems, and fire alarm systems. Mr. Couto stated that we are not there yet but the team from the district will make sure that we have state of the art equipment as usually is done.

Mr. Trujillo asked what the cost will be of this building.

Mr. Couto stated that he does not know yet but if we follow previous experiences about \$28 to \$30 million dollars.

Mr. Trujillo asked how much of the \$30 million dollars would be paid by the levy in the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Couto responded that the State of New Jersey provided the funds and no money will be coming from the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Trujillo stated that we will get another school that will house 1,000 students and will cost zero to the local taxpayers.

Mr. Couto stated that is correct because that school will include all the equipment, furniture, telephones, and everything we need to function.

Mr. Trujillo stated that this will be done on land we already own.

Mr. Couto responded that is correct.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the most important thing, apart from all the academics and great things that the school will be able to afford our students, is that we are going to create jobs. Mr. Trujillo asked Mrs. Hugelmeyer besides a Principal and Vice Principal, in her estimation how many teaching jobs and support staff would a school that size create.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that it would require between 90 up to a range of 120 positions.

Mr. Trujillo stated that if the union President is still here the additional jobs would get her closer to 4,000 members, good paying jobs to the local residents, and a great opportunity with zero cost to the local taxpayers.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a win-win and it is a testament to all the hard work Mr. Couto and his team have been doing when we opened all these schools. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Couto and his team have learned the system, that this has been planned for a while, there were studies done, architectural work done, and he has worked really well with the new administration. Mr. Trujillo stated that they worked hard on School No. 21, School No. 8, the expansion of the early childhood and we have been able to do a lot of things and it is because of the hard work, commitment, and know how that Mr. Couto and his team have done. Mr. Trujillo stated that he appreciates it as a taxpayer, as a father, and as a member of this Board. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows it is not easy but when we can compare it to other districts throughout the State we are leaps and bounds ahead of them. Mr. Trujillo thanked Mr. Couto and congratulated him on the excellent work he is doing.

Mr. Nazco asked Mr. Couto about the status of the Cicarell Academic High School.

Mr. Couto stated that the SDA thinks it will take 24 to 30 months to build.

Mr. Nazco stated that would be about the same time period as School No. 22 and that gives us an incredible opportunity. Mr. Nazco stated that if we have the new Academic High School that frees up the Upper Academy and then that could be used for a number of purposes to alleviate the overcrowding in many of our schools. Mr. Nazco stated that this really is a significant event for us here in Elizabeth and the people should be very proud especially as Mr. Trujillo stated at no cost to the taxpayers. Mr. Nazco congratulated the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth, his colleagues, and Mr. Couto for a job well done.

Mr. González stated that we have opened 17 new schools in the past 15 years which is a fantastic accomplishment by the district and by Mr. Couto leading the facilities team.

Mr. Couto thanked the Board members and commented that it is not only his team but there is also an instructional team that works with them to be able to put all the programs in place.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer thanked Mr. Couto for his report.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period starting January 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2013. 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 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, 2013 through June 30, 2013, there were 370 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff and of those cases investigated, 101 were confirmed cases of HIB and were affirmed by board members through the August 2013 meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the following Anti-Bullying Specialists, Anti-Bullying Specialist Alternates and Anti-Bullying Coordinator conducted these investigations including Maria Cabrera, Jacqueline Cajuste, Ann Schpakow, Maria Brito, Jessica Sofranko, Ali Abdul-Malik, Kerry O'Connor, Maria Vindas, Peter Vosseler, Lourdes Soto, Linda Fletcher, Colleen Reynolds, Christine Lillis-Flaherty, Janet Mazzarella, Sarah LaFace, Kenyetta Jackson, Giselle Scarfone-Sanzone, Jeannet Sanchez, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Theresa Guevara, Wilma Helm, Jennifer Hernandez, Natalie Haiken, Anita McCrea, Rosaria Scaff, Dayna Gil-Morais,

Darnella Boles, Andreia Giuca, Eva Exelbert, Lauren Czarnecki, Victoria Lawrence-White, Lisa O'Leary, Jecenia Solorzano, David Destro, Staci Max, Cindy Lichtenstein, Amelia Turner, Kimberly Girgis, Wendy Maravi, Rosa Dulzaides, and Eunice Y. Couselo.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that there were 9 incidents based on race, 2 incidents based on color, 1 incident based on religion, 0 incidents based on ancestry, 6 incidents based on national origin, 11 incidents based on gender, 12 incidents based on sexual orientation, 2 incidents based on gender identity or expression, 7 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 76 incidents based on other targeted bases. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that 10 incidents involved a gesture, 6 incidents involved a written communication, 81 incidents were verbal, 40 incidents were physical, 8 incidents involved an electronic communication, there were 45 out of school suspensions, 18 in school detentions, and 14 other disciplinary actions. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that additional services such as in-house counseling, skill development, and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that between January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013, the district provided appropriate HIB training to guidance counselors and social workers, and to new staff in the district. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that additionally, the district provided extensive and specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all Anti-Bullying Specialists and their alternates and all school level administrators and all HIB staff received training in the HIBster reporting program which is being implemented this school year.

Mrs. Hugelmeier asked if there was 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. Hugelmeier closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that her last report includes highlights from the first issue of InsideEPS. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that it is a great honor to accept the responsibility of this key leadership role for Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that when she started as a teacher for our district never did she imagine that she would one day have the opportunity to lead such a dedicated group of individuals committed to excellence in the classroom. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that our effort to prepare every child for a post-secondary education is something that she takes to heart and believes that our best days and commitments to that cause are upon us. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that this is the first issue of InsideEPS, a publication that we have created to provide you, the team and community member an update on the work that our district is doing in an effort to promote equality and excellence for the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that she hopes that you enjoy the material that we have provided and to feel free to send any recommendations on some of the stories that you would like to include to InsideEPS to [keystoexcellence@elizabeth.k12.nj.us](mailto:keystoexcellence@elizabeth.k12.nj.us). Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that she would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in making the Elizabeth Public Schools a place of which all of us, teachers, support team and community, can be proud.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that in the first issue of InsideEPS we are featuring the *Extended Day at EPS Receives Recognition*. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that a report titled *Understanding the Finances of Expanded Learning Time* will be released within the next couple of weeks and Elizabeth Public Schools will be one of the featured districts. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the National Center on Time & Learning (NCTL) is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that through research, public policy, and technical assistance, NCTL supports national, state, and local initiatives that add significantly more school time to help children meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and prepare for success in college and career. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that this report which has been completed by the National Center of Time and Learning where five schools have been identified for this study, Elizabeth Public Schools is honored to announce that the school that is featured in the report with glowing appraisal of its operations and results is Dr. Orlando Edreira School No. 26.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our district was identified for this study by the NCTL as being one of the few districts nationally that is able to boast and highlight extended learning on a scale as the way it is implemented here in Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Elizabeth is one of only a very small number of districts committed to a longer day for all its schools including its six high schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the district first transitioned to an 8-hour day in 2006 when the Board approved magnet schools to open with an extended day like Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the high school required 8-hour days for all students and since then the high school has broken into six separate academies where the longer day remains. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that more schools converted to the extended day in the 2009-2010 school year when the district leadership provided the six lowest-performing schools with an additional 90 minutes per day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this additional time was to be directed primarily toward a period of the day that was reserved for additional interventions in English language arts and math. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this has helped in environments such as the School No. 26 community which is cited for its collaborative planning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that teachers at School No. 26 are clear in their desire to collaborate with colleagues across disciplines, not only as they formulate particular lesson plans, they work to coordinate lesson plans and to help ensure that the content of each class aligns with the learning themes and then, especially at the middle school level, that each individual class is aligned with each other. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that School No. 26 is featured for offering a broad array of enrichment activities, ranging from visual arts to technology, from music to student government. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the full breadth and detail of the report will once again help to highlight the commitment of the board to equity and excellence for our school children.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next featured article is *Washington Comes to EPS* and when the U.S. Department of Education announced that it would be auditing state implementation of Race to the Top plans, the N.J. Department of Education immediately turned to Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Race to the Top is a federally funded program available to states who compete for dollars through ambitious grant applications that propose innovative ways to increase student achievement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that New Jersey received a Race to the Top Grant that provided districts with many opportunities and supports such as the New Jersey State Model Curriculum and monies to pilot new teacher and principal evaluation systems. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that central office administrators, school leaders, and teachers impressed Washington officials with our relationship with the N.J. Department of Education and with our own efforts to increase student achievement.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer continued with the Inside EPS features and stated that we are *Sharing Our Success with the Nation* and Rachel Goldberg, Director of Staff Development, and Monica Martinez the EPS Harvard Strategic Data Project (SDP) Fellow have been invited to share EPS success with the nation in two national conferences this fall. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Ms. Martinez has been recognized by the SDP project for being one of the first fellows to complete a significant analysis of college-readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Mrs. Goldberg and Ms. Martinez will travel to Boston to share the success of EPS with the newest cohort of SDP Fellows from across the nation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they have also been invited to represent the New Jersey Department of Education in Denver, CO at the Cross State Learning Collaborative (CSLC) in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is honored to represent New Jersey in this exciting experience.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the *EPS is Gearing Up for PARCC* and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Pilot is moving forward and Elizabeth Public Schools are working to be on the forefront of this national movement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that PARCC is a consortium of states including New Jersey working together to develop the next generation of assessments based on the Common Core Standards. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2014 the online PARCC assessments will replace the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) and also will replace the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) tests that are typically administered with pencil and paper. Mrs.

Hugelmeyer stated that the two components that make up PARCC are the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year Assessment (EOY). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the English Language Arts/Literacy Performance-Based Assessment will involve literature analysis, narrative writing, and research simulation tasks and in the assessment the students will read passages and write several pieces to demonstrate they can read and understand sufficiently complex texts independently, write effectively when using and analyzing sources and build and communicate knowledge by integrating, comparing and synthesizing ideas. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Mathematics Performance-Based Assessment will involve tasks requiring students to demonstrate they can solve problems involving key knowledge and skills, express mathematical reasoning and construct mathematical arguments, and apply concepts to solve/model real world problems. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the other component is the End of Year Assessment and will involve tasks requiring students to demonstrate their content-specific acquired skills and knowledge. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the End of Year Assessments will include extended tasks including innovative item types and unlike the Performance Based-Assessment all responses will be scored by machine. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the English Language Arts/Literacy End-of-Year Assessment requires students to demonstrate their ability to comprehend a range of sufficiently complex text including literature, literary notification, and informational text from history/social studies, science, and technical subjects, engage in the reading of texts that require them to draw conclusions, interpret the meaning of words and phrases and technical vocabulary and compare, integrate and synthesize ideas presented in texts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in comparison the Mathematics End-of-Year Assessment requires students to demonstrate their ability to solve multi-step problems, conceptual questions, applications, and carry out substantial procedures.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the Spring of 2014, the PARCC assessments will be field tested to examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-2015 school year, test assessment administration procedures, and give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of the PARCC assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that twenty-two schools in Elizabeth have been chosen to participate in the PARCC Field Test which will be administered in two sessions during the period of March 24 through April 11, 2014 for the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and during the period of May 5 through June 6, 2014 for the End-of-Year Assessment (EOY).

Mrs. Hugelmeyer highlighted the article *Ford Foundation, Rutgers University and Elizabeth Public Schools Join Collaborative Effort* that the Rutgers University Cornwall Center will be working on a study that will help to highlight educational reform in the Elizabeth Public Schools and the study is receiving the financial and technical support of the Ford Foundation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Cornwall Center will identify and document lessons to help inform and implement academic reforms in other districts and the focus is on the content of the Elizabeth Public Schools reform, how reform was implemented in the Elizabeth Public Schools and how our reforms have been sustained. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the research project will combine archival research and interviews to document the academic condition of Elizabeth Public Schools before the reforms and to describe the academic reforms that were adopted by the Elizabeth Public Schools to improve student academic performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the grounding of these reforms in the literature and/or in other model schools implicit and explicit logic models and the philosophical foundations of the reform will all help to describe how these reforms were achieved, to what extent was the reform model implemented, what were the constraints on implementation and what were the lessons learned. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the data will tell the story through documentation and interview with team members throughout the district including members of the Board of Education and community representatives. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Rutgers University Cornwall Center will also be focusing on extended learning time and managed instruction and the goal is to document extended learning time as implemented in K-8 schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the project will document the extended learning time goals, philosophies, structures, etc. as envisioned and implemented and the research will combine information from existing documents, interviews, and surveys. Mrs. Hugelmeyer

stated that the project will be comprised of four case studies with one from each of the four variants. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the main objective is to document the four extended day learning time variants, implicit and explicit logic models, the genesis of the different approaches and the different components of the extended learning time variants and to what extent were the reform models implemented, what were the constraints on implementation, what adjustments needed to be made, what were the lessons learned and what structures were created to facilitate and sustain reforms will all figure prominently in this effort. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that documenting responses by principals, teachers, parents and classroom behaviors in the Elizabeth Public Schools K-8 schools will be part of the study along with analyzing existing documents, the creation of surveys and observations held in a structured classroom by embedded researchers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is very honored to have such illustrious partners who will no doubt promote the success of our school district on a national basis.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Board and stated that this concludes InsideEPS.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked Acting Superintendent Hugelmeyer for her report.

Mr. González commented that we have national organizations coming to Elizabeth to see the Elizabeth Way of how we are doing and how we have implemented the reforms. Mr. González stated that we have the Ford Foundation funding the Cornwall Center at Rutgers University and we have been recognized not only at the state level but now also at the national level for all the great work that all of you are doing in the district. Mr. González stated that it is a tremendous accomplishment and they are coming to us and they want to know our story and what we are doing that is making a difference in our students and the progress that we have been accomplishing in Elizabeth and he is very proud. Mr. González stated that we were a field test district for evaluations and now they are going to field test the PARCC here in Elizabeth which is a very important testing that is going to be happening in 40 states. Mr. González stated that they trust what we are doing and they know we are doing a great job and the staff is really doing a fantastic job. Mr. González stated that he is very proud that the state and national organizations are coming to Elizabeth and thanked the staff for making us shine at the national level and eventually we will be recognized worldwide for all the great things we are doing. Mr. González thanked Acting Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, the staff, and the Board for supporting the staff in all their efforts.

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Accept Funds, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Approve, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

#### Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 5

Negative: Ms. Bathelus – 1

#### Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

#### Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

#### Miscellaneous Communication

None.

#### Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella (abstain- S.C.), González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

#### Resolution – National Parental Involvement Day

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

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

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Puerto Rican Heritage Month

Mr. Nazco read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Veteran’s Day

Mr. Padlo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Padlo, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – National School Lunch Week

Mr. González read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Mr. González thanked the food service workers for preparing breakfast and lunch for our children.

The second reading of the following revised bylaw and policies was done:

- 4112.2 Policy Certification
- 4131/4131.1 Policy Staff Development: Inservice Education/Visitations/Conferences
- 4231/4231.1
- 6142.10 Policy Internet Safety and Technology
- 9111 Bylaw Qualifications and Requirements of Board Members

Resolution – Revised Bylaw and Policies

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials 2013-2014 School Year

Mr. González read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Michael Cohn

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – New Jersey School Boards Association 2013 Annual Workshop

A motion was made by Mr. Padlo, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Coordinated Transportation Services for the 2013-2014 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized former Board President Marie Munn who was in attendance.

The Vice President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for 2013-2014 QSAC submission; special education matter L.S.; Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results; and Workers' Compensation Claims, specifically, D.G., S.H., M.S., L.L., and G.F. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Nazco, to go into private session at 10:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

The Board reconvened in public at 11:05 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Resolution – Approval for Contract for Functional Behavioral Assessment – L.S.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Submit NJ QSAC

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mrs. Castillo-Ospina asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there is a walk on Sunday, October 20, 2013 in Warinanco Park for awareness for drinking and driving for teenagers and texting and driving and encouraged the community to promote awareness for it and support this good cause.

Mr. González announced that we will be celebrating EPS OneFest'13 on November 1-2, 2013 at Williams Field, Edison Career and Technical Academy, and Jefferson Arts Academy Theater. Mr. González stated that last year it was a tremendous success and everyone in our community had a great time. Mr. González encouraged everyone to attend and bring their children and there will be a lot of activities.

Ms. Bathelus commented that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and commended those who have suffered breast cancer or know someone who suffered from breast cancer. Ms. Bathelus stated that we are here for them and encouraged everyone to wear pink for the rest of October.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina congratulated Mrs. Hugelmeyer and stated that Mrs. Hugelmeyer was the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning which makes her a good candidate to hold this position. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that Mrs. Hugelmeyer has been trained by the Broad Foundation and the Panasonic Foundation. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina welcomed Mrs. Hugelmeyer, the first Hispanic female superintendent.

Mr. González congratulated Mrs. Hugelmeyer on her first meeting of many and more to come and that they are here to support her. Mr. González wished her the best of luck and commented that he knows she will do a fantastic job.

On a motion by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. González, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Calella, González, Nazco, Padlo, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

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