

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

November 19, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called on November 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Maria Carvalho welcomed everyone at 5:39 p.m. to Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51.

Mrs. Carvalho called for a moment of silence for the passing of retired principal Jacqueline Jennings and security guard Carlos Julio Cruz; as well as for the victims and families of the recent tragic events that have taken place at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, and Hot Yoga in Tallahassee, Florida.

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brandon Calda, eleventh grade student at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Olivia Trujillo, tenth grade student at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized the tremendous performance of the Jefferson Liberty Players of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy in their production of *The Laramie Project*. Mrs. Carvalho stated that *The Laramie Project* tells the story of the tragic death of Matthew Shepard in October 1998 that received national coverage to expose a hate crime targeting a gay man and sparked the debate for federal hate-crime laws through the perspectives and observations of various people that lived in Laramie, Wyoming at the time of his death. Mrs. Carvalho stated that not only did they give impactful performances on a very sensitive and emotional topic, but they also, through the support of former Senator Raymond Lesniak, introduced the Stand Up Pledge to the Elizabeth community to stand up for the other in the effort to eradicate bigotry. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this pledge was taken by every senator on the State Assembly Floor in 2016 and continues to reach more and more communities as time passes. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the Jefferson Liberty Players, as well as Senator Lesniak and the creator of the pledge Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry, for bringing the pledge to our community and being part of the solution to rid our society of hate. Mrs. Carvalho introduced Senator Raymond Lesniak.

Senator Raymond Lesniak stated that this is a special occasion and it is a great honor for him to join the Elizabeth Board of Education to recognize this great performance. Senator Lesniak stated that he attended the opening night performance of *The Laramie Project* and was riveted to his seat. Senator Lesniak stated that he is so proud that they brought to life this terrible tragedy of this young man, who was beaten to death because he was gay, so that we will never forget what cruelty people can heap upon each other. Senator Lesniak stated that then he was so proud when they led the entire audience in the Stand Up for the Other Pledge. Senator Lesniak stated that the Pledge by Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry says that any time you hear someone put down someone else because of how they look, how they speak, where they came from, what religion they practice, or because of who they are, stand up for that person and say no, that is wrong, it's not right, and we have to embrace each other and all of our cultures. Senator Lesniak

stated that is what the Jefferson Liberty Arts Players represented that night and he is sure they represent every day of their life. Senator Lesniak requested that the pledge be recited tonight.

The Stand Up for the Other Pledge by Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry was led by Gryffin Mendonssa, senior at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy.

Senator Lesniak stated that it was his honor to present, jointly with the Elizabeth Board of Education and the Lesniak Institute for American Leadership, certificates of excellence to the Jefferson Liberty Players including cast members Kevin Barreiro, Primitiva Buesaquillo, Brandon Calda, Jayleen Ojeda, Selena Jean-Pierre, Cooper Mendonssa, Gryffin Mendonssa, Elvin Rodriguez, Sarai Smith, Jared Smoot, and Olivia Trujillo; crew members Ester Carrera, Brandon DaSilva, Gianna Domingues, Daniel Flores, Beatriz Ferreira, Fatima Laurent, Justin Munoz, Valentina Quesada, Jassielle Rodriguez, Melissa Rodriguez, Gianna Salerno-Smith, Sharlyn Samedi, and Melody Turner; director Erika Hicks, and producer Sandra Toll. Senator Lesniak and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of excellence.

Mr. Jacobs recognized Ya-Sha-Rah Braithwaite, senior at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy as the 2018 Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner. Mr. Jacobs stated that Ya-Sha-Rah Braithwaite is a standout student-athlete who competes in cross-country and indoor and outdoor track and field. Mr. Jacobs stated that she is the captain of the Elizabeth High School Girls Track and Field Team and currently holds five individual records and six relay records including last season's record-breaking performances in the outdoor 200m and 400m, as well as the 4 x 100m that she anchored. Mr. Jacobs stated that she qualified for an unprecedented four events at the 2018 NJSIAA Meet of Champions. Mr. Jacobs stated that during the summer at the USATF Hershey National Junior Olympic Championships she had the 26th fastest time in the 400m, 39th fastest time in the 400m hurdles, and the 46th fastest time in the 200m. Mr. Jacobs stated that she is excelling equally in the classroom with a 3.86 grade-point average while serving as an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) tutor, member of the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy Environmental Club, and a member of the Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program (UC STEP). Mr. Jacobs stated that she was selected as the 2018 Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner as well as recently being recognized as the News 12 Scholar-Athlete putting her in the running for the 2018 News 12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated Ya-Sha-Rah Braithwaite and presented her with a certificate of excellence.

Miss Goncalves recognized members of PBA Local No. 4 for Operation Turkey Drive including Officer Orlando Barros, President, Officer Roger Alves, Vice President, and Officer Jason Luis, State Delegate. Miss Goncalves stated that for the past 26 years, the Elizabeth Patrolman's Benevolent Association Local No. 4 has been operating a Turkey Drive in collaboration with local businesses willing to make donations to help members of the Elizabeth community in times of need. Miss Goncalves stated that, in addition to the donations they receive, Elizabeth PBA Local No. 4 purchases additional turkeys and canned goods to supplement the donations to several churches that hold Thanksgiving Day meals for the homeless and elderly. Miss Goncalves stated that last week, Elizabeth PBA Local No. 4 visited district schools to deliver turkeys to our learning community for the Thanksgiving holiday as part of their annual drive. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated them and presented them with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer recognized the Union County Corrections PBA Local 199 that visited Elizabeth Public Schools to deliver turkeys to our community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Union County Corrections PBA Local 199 for their wonderful donations to our schools to ensure that families of the Elizabeth Public Schools community have Thanksgiving dinner. Mrs. Hugelmeyer and Board members thanked Union County Corrections PBA Local 199 and stated that Officer David F. Oppman, PBA Local 199 President was not able to attend tonight.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized team members from Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy including Vice Principal Dalia Elrakaybie, nurse Madeline Kelly, and head security guard Chris Lawand who calmly responded to the scene of a student who suffered a significant injury. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that these team members comforted and accompanied the student to the hospital. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Nina recognized the heroic actions of investigators Leon Davis and Daniel Saulnier who were able to contribute to saving the life of an EPS team member. Mr. Nina introduced investigators Leon Davis and Daniel Saulnier, Lead Investigator Tomas Escribano, and Director of Security Matthew Glackin. Mr. Nina and Board members congratulated Leon Davis and Daniel Saulnier and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she has designated office hours from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday night during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to meet with her and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that November 11, 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the date which would eventually be recognized and observed as Veteran's Day. Mrs. Carvalho thanked, on behalf of the Board, all our past and present servicemen and servicewomen from Elizabeth and all parts of the United States who were or are currently stationed around the world. Mrs. Carvalho thanked them for the personal sacrifices they have made to help protect our country and our freedoms.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked the Elizabeth PBA Local No. 4, Elizabeth First Ward Councilman Carlos Torres, and all other sources of turkey donations that helped ensure members of our community would have a nice, warm meal this Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Carvalho expressed her heartfelt gratitude for entrusting her to serve in this capacity as she continues to work with her colleagues who are alongside her to deliver the best education possible to our children. Mrs. Carvalho thanked her colleagues for their dedication to the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools and the important work that this Board undertakes to help ensure a bright future for our City. Mrs. Carvalho wished everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving that brings countless blessings.

Board President Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 6:15 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular agenda 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 November 2, 2018. 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, New Jersey.”

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this November 19, 2018 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. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. 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 may sign in up to the 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.”

Mr. Kennedy stated that he received a communication this morning from Jose Rodriguez. Mr. Kennedy read the communication from Jose Rodriguez that stated as of today, Monday November 19th 2018, he resigned his position as a member of the Elizabeth Board of Education effective immediately.

Present: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega
Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 7
Absent: Mr. Neron – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and members of the public were in attendance.

Board President Carvalho 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.”

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the first public participant, Luann Breese, to address the Board.

Luann Breese, resource teacher at Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and Arts School No. 9, spoke about special education, IEPs, intervention periods, and retro pay not properly compensated. Ms. Breese stated that she will continue to fight for the rights of all teachers and special education students in the district.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Danielle Fienberg, to address the Board.

Danielle Fienberg, 631 North Broad Street, spoke about the transportation problems with Shore Vans. Mrs. Fienberg stated that if there is another severe storm at the end of the day, then perhaps there could be a shelter-in-place especially for the younger and most vulnerable children. Mrs. Fienberg stated that over and over this Board has stated that the safety of the children is the most important.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Samad Siddiqui, to address the Board.

Samad Siddiqui, 214 Summit Road, stated that he is the parent of an eight-year-old non-verbal special education student who is a runner. Mr. Siddiqui stated that his child arrived home at 8:45 p.m. and he had to track the bus himself. Mr. Siddiqui stated that there is no protocol and

there needs to be a fail-safe protocol. Mr. Siddiqui stated that there is no communication taking ownership of what happened and our kids deserve better than that. Mr. Siddiqui stated that the next day the bus did not come.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments and requested he speak with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno. Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, stated that students were on the bus for over 3 hours. Mrs. Lorenz spoke about IEPs and that two Board members have children with special needs and asked how they are going to hold the Superintendent accountable for the violations.

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

Kason Little, student, gave his condolences to Mrs. Barbosa and thanked the teacher who came to speak. Mr. Little stated that he brought the idea forward about the student representatives and was not invited to sit at the table. Mr. Little stated that his voice will be heard.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, gave her condolences to Mrs. Barbosa. Mrs. Moreira stated that nothing has been posted for the GED Program and there is a lack of communication from the Superintendent. Mrs. Moreira stated that during the snowstorm parents were not able to pick up their children early because an early dismissal was not called. Mrs. Moreira stated that they need to have a protocol in place. Mrs. Moreira stated that at Jefferson the students were kicked out of the building at 4 p.m. and made to stay outside. Mrs. Moreira stated that there needs to be a protocol for transportation.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and stated that she could speak with an Assistant Superintendent.

Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Carvalho closed this portion of the meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that she would like to provide clarification with regard to the reference that was made by one of our parents about the GED Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are not the lead agency. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the lead agency is Union County College for the GED Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Union County College is responsible for working together with our guidance counselors to identify the students and refer them to Union County College. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we do not have advertisements that are posted in our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Union County College works directly with our counselors and we make the information available to the students that need the services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she hopes it helps our community understand the importance of communicating with the administrators and communicating with our guidance counselors to ensure that services are directed where necessary.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with regard to the storm on Thursday, there is clearly no doubt, that the storm was paralyzing to the City of Elizabeth and the northeast region of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we do have protocols in place with regard to notifying parents when we have a sense as of the length of time that it will take for their children to arrive home safely. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this was on an hour-by-hour basis and very difficult to predict and that many of you reported your challenges with regard to traveling that day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked each and every one of our team members and stated that they certainly went

above and beyond for the safety of all children. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our bus drivers, the bus drivers from our vendors, our teachers, and our administrators all cared for our children and she is very proud of the way in which that day was handled. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it certainly was circumstances beyond everyone's control. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for the parents that came here tonight with concerns regarding the following day we certainly will investigate those issues thoroughly and follow-up with them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is important that when issues are brought forth that everyone understands that these issues are properly investigated and the matters are researched. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we ensure that protocols that we have in place are thorough and ensure that the education that is provided to our children is of high standards and we are following our three guiding principles which are equity, high expectations, and excellence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in keeping with these principles we have an unwavering focus on ensuring that all of our students are prepared each and every day from preschool through high school for the purpose of preparing them for college and career readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is very proud of the educational system that we have here in the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there have been countless times that we have reported to the public our success all throughout, from preschool through high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that, as she always reminds our administrators, our work does not end at the high school level and we view ourselves as a PreK-16 level school system because we often report with regard to the success of our students when they leave our doors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that is a result of having a safe and secure environment where our students are thriving. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she looks forward to providing our Board with additional reports regarding this success.

Ms. Bathelus asked for an explanation of the process of how we selected the student representatives for our meetings.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there was a protocol that was developed in the form of a policy with regard to students who are chosen from the student government. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the student government are students who have been elected by their respective peers at the high schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is not just open to all students and the only students that can participate are those that have been elected for their student government. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are very proud of our students and they were very engaged at our last board meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they took copious notes and followed up with Mr. Mazza and were very much interested in the process that we have here in place as it relates to the agenda meeting and the regular board meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it was a phenomenal experience for them and we hope to be able to engage them at future meetings.

Ms. Bathelus stated that if the process that the Superintendent put in place states that the students that are on the student advisory council, then if you are not on the student advisory council you cannot be part of the students at the board meetings. Ms. Bathelus stated that this is the process that we are following. Ms. Bathelus thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer and Board President Maria Carvalho.

Board President Maria Carvalho stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we will go tab by tab and each Board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Daphne Marchetti, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt, Acting Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs Kathleen Badalis, Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Transportation Michael Rijo, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Planning Amy Gil, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes, and Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal. The Board reviewed the agenda.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Ms. Bathelus stated that at the last meeting she asked Director of Transportation Michael Rijo about the number of students for busses on band trips and asked what his conclusion is.

Director of Transportation Michael Rijo stated that he saw the trip to Delaware and four busses is sufficient. Mr. Rijo stated that five busses is more than enough. Mr. Rijo stated that the problem is with equipment and it should be in the trucks and not in the busses for safety. Mr. Rijo stated that the warehouse took the equipment.

Ms. Bathelus stated that if she hears any concerns then she is coming back to him.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that if the trip is for out-of-state then an extra bus is used.

Mrs. Barbosa excused herself from the meeting.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Minutes of the Meetings to the agenda.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of September 2018

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Secretary/Treasurer's Report to the agenda.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta to provide a summary of the Personnel Report.

Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta gave a synopsis of the report.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Personnel Report to the agenda.

Tuition Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Tuition Report to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked what school is benefiting from the workshop *Transforming Schools through the Power of the Arts*.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that this is for the supervisor of the art department who will turnkey the information to the art department as a whole.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Considerations to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that their 501C3 and insurance should be in order.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities to the agenda.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that one of the trips is a class going to see the Macy's Parade Studio.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Field Trips to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Authorizations Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt speak about the Leading Towards the Future Program.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt stated that three high schools will be participating with Future City of Elizabeth for the Leading Towards the Future Program to expose high school students to professional executives. Mr. Goldblatt stated that each presenter will share with the students the obstacles that they have faced and their goal-setting advice.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Elementary and Secondary Daphne Marchetti speak about the 4-H Master Tree Stewards program.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Daphne Marchetti stated that it is an enrichment program for fourth grade students to learn about trees and tree appreciation. Mrs. Marchetti stated that the cooperating agencies are Rutgers University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that sixteen EPS students are applying for the New Jersey Rising Scholars Recognition Program that recognizes seniors graduating in the 2018-2019 school year who are leaders in their schools and communities. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the program acknowledges students from diverse backgrounds and is in partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) that have provided us this opportunity.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt speak about the START NOW Grant and the FIRST Robotics Competition.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools received \$1,000. from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy students who were the winners of the START NOW Grant. Mr. Goldblatt stated that it is for work that they did creating a safe school environment.

Mr. Goldblatt stated that we have a robotics club at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy and they applied for the FIRST Robotics Competition Rookie Team Grant that will allow them to compete at the state and international level in the area of robotics.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is happy to see that we entered into a partnership with the YWCA. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that they will be working with parents, community, teachers, and guidance counselors to provide services based on teen dating relationships. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that it is one of the top things that she always worries about with teens and

preteens affected in relationships. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that the topics include warning signs of abusive relationships, healthy vs. unhealthy teen dating relationships, and resources in the community. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked the Superintendent to explain to the community what will be our benefit especially for our teen parents who always have questions. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that our teens don't share too much information with parents and guardians and this will be a great opportunity to communicate.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated this is a great opportunity and we have been working with the YWCA for many years. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this initiative not only affords the YWCA to work with our educational staff and our parents but most importantly is working directly with our high school students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is very valuable information regarding the topics including the warning signs of abusive relationships, being able to differentiate between a healthy and unhealthy relationship, and making sure not only parents but also our students are aware of all the valuable resources that are made available in the City. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that last year we had the opportunity to partner with the Jets organization and the One Love Foundation and this was a jumping off point for our school district with providing this type of support to our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we started with our seniors and this really helped to broaden the opportunities district-wide on this important topic.

Mr. Jacobs requested a copy of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan be provided to Board members.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Authorizations Report to the agenda.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.
Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the reports to the agenda.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Acting Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs Kathleen Badalis to speak about the upcoming parent training opportunities.

Acting Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs Kathleen Badalis stated that there are three contracts to provide parent workshops at sixteen of our Title I schools. Mrs. Badalis stated that the workshop topics are at the request of the school and based on the data and their needs in the community. Mrs. Badalis stated that the topics include, but are not limited to, conflict resolution, effective communication, job-searching skills for parents, stress management, anger management strategies, social media, youth development, and gang awareness.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that these classes are only offered during the day and asked if we will have any opportunities for after school for parents.

Mrs. Badalis explained that they usually will offer an evening session or a session right after school. Mrs. Badalis stated that they usually do offer one outside of the school day also.

Ms. Bathelus stated that there is a contract with the American Red Cross for the students to donate blood and asked if there is a consent from their parents that will be signed first since most of them are under eighteen.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded yes, absolutely.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that this is usually done with the Key Club.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that is correct.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt speak about the Council of Compulsive Gambling.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt stated that sports gambling has recently become legal in the State of New Jersey and unfortunately, there are risks and that is what this series of workshops is meant to combat.

Mrs. Carvalho asked, being that this is fairly new, if we have any measures in place for this like we do for alcohol and drugs.

Mr. Goldblatt responded that we do not have a specific policy for this and stated that this is something new. Mr. Goldblatt stated that this is a direction that we probably want to go because we don't want our children spending time in school gambling.

Miss Goncalves asked if this will be offered to all of our students as a mandatory course for them to take throughout the year.

Mr. Goldblatt explained that this is a firm that is coming to talk to individual groups of students. Mr. Goldblatt stated that he will find out and provide more information.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes speak about the various opportunities being provided at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes stated that there are five contracts for Edison Academy to support the career and technical education strands. Mr. Cortes stated that there will be representatives coming to speak to the students to give them the latest information and all five contracts are at no cost to the Board.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he would like to hold the contracts for the parental involvement vendors to learn some more information about how effective these programs might be and what exactly they are concentrating on since this is the first time we are seeing them. Mr. Jacobs requested the parental involvement contracts for Brahn Career Educational Consulting Services, LLC, VIP Community Services, Inc., and My Own Man, LLC be held for private session for further clarification.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal speak about the contract for Aspire Technology.

Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal stated that this is for additional assistance to secure the perimeter of the internet so that additional cyber security is implemented overall to the district. Mr. Marsal stated that there have been a lot of attacks recently, not specifically to our K-12 space but other government agencies have been held ransom. Mr. Marsal stated that we want to be able to be secure and this handles both intruder detection and cyber attacks.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked Mr. Marsal for being proactive.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Supervisor of Physical Education, Health and Safety Joe Przytula speak about the contract with Empower.

Supervisor of Physical Education, Health and Safety Joe Przytula stated that we are partnering with Empower Somerset to participate in the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) School Health NJ Project: Building and Sustaining Healthy Schools pilot for students for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mrs. Barbosa returned to the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Award of Contracts Report (with the exception of Brahn Career Educational Consulting Services, LLC, VIP Community Services, Inc., and My Own Man, LLC that are being held for private session) to the agenda.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the non-public nursing services on the Authorizations Report.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the nursing services are funded by the New Jersey State Department of Education and provide nursing services for non-public schools.

Miscellaneous Communication - None
Claims List

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Miscellaneous Communication and Claims List to the agenda.

Resolution – Partial Roof Replacement at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy 9th Grade Annex Building School No. 82A

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked why it is a partial roof repair.

Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto stated that the building has many roofs and only this one needs to be replaced. Mr. Couto stated that there is also a partial roof repair at Edison.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Waiver

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Partial Roof Replacement at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Revised Policy and New Exhibit – Administering Medication

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Barbosa asked what changed on the policy.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it now includes the emergency administration of opioid antidote.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that they would like to see the changes.

Mr. Kennedy explained that the draft versions showing the changes are sent with the first reading of the policies. Mr. Kennedy stated that the draft version will be available for the Board members on the cloud.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Submission of Early Childhood Budget 2019-2020 School Year

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Appointing Max Plumbing and Heating, Inc. and Approving Form of Contract for Provision of Snow Plowing/Removal Services

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there is a first reading of the following new policy:

4111.2/4211.2 Policy Domestic Violence

Mrs. Carvalho added the first reading to the agenda.

Board President Maria Carvalho requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, M.P., interviews; legal, specifically, N.G., and workers' compensation matters, specifically, N.A. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to go into private session at 7:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Nina excused himself from the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Ms. Bathelus excused herself from the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 9:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Carvalho – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Nina returned to the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Mrs. Carvalho added the following to the agenda:

Award of Contracts for Brahn Career Educational Consulting Services, LLC, VIP Community Services, Inc., and My Own Man, LLC (which were held for private session)

Resolution – Return to Work – Marvin Pagan

Resolution – Appointment of Coordinator of Transportation – Jose Laranjeira

Resolution – Appointment of Technology Project Manager – Luis Ferreira

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Negative: None

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