

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

November 19, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to immediately follow the agenda meeting on November 19, 2018 in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 9:08 p.m. since the agenda meeting was held prior to the business meeting.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular business 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 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 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 public speaking so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

Present: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, 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., Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and members of the public were in attendance.

Board President Maria 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, Valentina Aharon, to address the Board.

Valentina Aharon, 752 Grier Avenue, has two children at School No. 30 and stated that there has been a substitute for pre-kindergarten since the beginning of the year. Ms. Aharon stated that her older child does not have a permanent math teacher and spoke about problems with a covering math teacher for pre-algebra.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Ms. Aharon to meet with her to gather more information.

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

The first reading of the following new policy was done:

4111.2/4211.2	Policy	Domestic Violence
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The second reading of the following revised policy and new exhibit was done:

5141.21	Policy	Administering Medication
5141.21(X)	Exhibit	Emergency Administration of Naloxone for Drug Overdose

Resolution – Revised Policy and New Exhibit

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

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

Mrs. Carvalho asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the October 18, 2018 Agenda and Business Meetings

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

Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Supplemental Tuition Report

Superintendent’s Report – Considerations

Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities - waiver of fees

Supplemental Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities with fees

Superintendent’s Report – Field Trips

Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – Partial Roof Replacement at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy - Ninth Grade

Annex School No. 82A

Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

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

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

Resolution – Appointing Max Plumbing and Heating Inc. and Approving Form of Contract for Snow Plowing/Removal Services
Resolution – Return to Work – Marvin Pagan
Resolution – Appointment of Coordinator of Transportation – Jose Laranjeira
Resolution – Appointment of Technology Project Manager – Luis Ferreira

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the above be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa (abstain- Award of Contracts Report - Valenca Restaurant), Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Authorizations Report- Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, YWCA Union County, CALTA21, Cultures and Literacies through Art for the 21st Century, Visual Arts Centers of NJ, FIRST Robotics Competition Rookie Team Grant), Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Nina (abstain- Personnel Report; Finance and Accounting Report - Pay Vouchers; Award of Contracts Report; Claims List), Mrs. Carvalho - 7

Negative: None

Mr. Kennedy welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period starting January 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Kennedy stated that in July 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, chapter 122 and in accordance with this law, all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a “Week of Respect.” Mr. Kennedy stated that during the Week of Respect, school districts are expected to organize activities including, but not limited to, age-appropriate instruction and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance. Mr. Kennedy stated that a resolution was put before the Board in September declaring the week of October 2-6, 2017, Week of Respect and each of our schools planned appropriate activities for this week.

Mr. Kennedy stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, two times each year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the reporting period. Mr. Kennedy stated that from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018, there were 309 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff. Mr. Kennedy stated that of those cases investigated, 94 were confirmed cases of HIB and were affirmed by board members through the August 2018 meeting. Mr. Kennedy stated that the following Anti-Bullying Specialists, Anti-Bullying Specialist Alternates, and Anti-Bullying Coordinator conducted these investigations including Lourdes Soto, Patricia Makras, Jessica Trujillo, Nafeesa Simmons, Kristin Kelly, Dinorah Mejia, Andreia Giuca, Steven Zografos, Christine Rappa, Daniela Damiani, Chanise Hurst, Christine Flaherty, Lisa Rappa, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Jasmine Lee, Maria Brito, Lourdes Labbate, Jennifer Hernandez, Michelle Zuber, Jessica Sofranco, Tanya Santucci, Fabi Ramos, Colleen Reynolds, Maria Cabrera, Antonio Sapio, Sara Laface, Sarah Brown, Meghan Lewandowski, Kenyetta Jackson, Kathy Amato, Melissa Zappia, Kerry O'Connor, Deborah Leff, Aleina Cuza-Murray, Lauren Cortes, Wilma Helm, Evalyn Leonard, Maria Vindas, Kellia Pasteur, Valerie Hendon, Wendy Maravi, Heidy Guillaume, Melanie Padilla, Joseph Sanchez, Adrian Bennett, Marc Korbman, Lisa Baginski-Matlosz, Linda Lewis, Ishmael Medley, Safiyyah Howell, Briana Helm, Lucila Hernandez, Heather Ford, and Peter Vosseler. Mr. Kennedy stated that there were 12 incidents based on race/ethnic origin, 6 incidents based on color, 1 incident based on religion, 3 incidents based on ancestry, 12 incidents based on gender, 6 incidents based on sexual orientation, 3 incidents based on gender identity or expression, 12 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 79 incidents based on other targeted bases. Mr. Kennedy stated that 0 incidents involved a gesture, 0 incidents involved a written communication, 86 incidents were verbal, 37 incidents were physical, and 14 incidents involved an electronic communication. Mr. Kennedy stated that there were 127 out-of-school suspensions, 80 in-school detentions, and 37 other disciplinary actions. Mr. Kennedy stated that additional services such as in-school counseling, skill development, referral for outside treatment resources, professional development,

parent conferences, and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students. Mr. Kennedy stated that between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018 the district provided appropriate HIB training to school counselors and social workers, and to new staff and support staff in the district. Mr. Kennedy stated that the district also provided the two-hour state required HIB training, for each five-year developmental period, to certified staff throughout the district. Mr. Kennedy stated that additionally, the district provided extensive and specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all Anti-Bullying Specialists and their alternates. Mr. Kennedy stated that non-certificated staff also received training. Mr. Kennedy stated that new school level administrators and new HIB staff received training in the HIBster reporting program.

Mr. Kennedy asked if there were any questions and if there was anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Kennedy presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mr. Kennedy stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended. Mr. Kennedy stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the report be accepted.

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

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 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

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