

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

December 17, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to immediately follow the agenda meeting on December 17, 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 9:48 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 December 5, 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. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Absent: Mr. Nina – 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 for Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP 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.”

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

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC/Affirmative Action/Guidance Peter Vosseler who presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results.

Mr. Vosseler presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mr. Vosseler 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. Vosseler 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.

Mrs. Barbosa asked why some have parent conferences.

Mr. Vosseler explained that the law requires the parent to be notified. Mr. Vosseler stated that in the more serious cases the parent comes to the meeting.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Vosseler for the information on the trend data. Mr. Jacobs asked if he could include the current year going forward.

Mr. Vosseler responded yes.

Resolution – Appointment of Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs –
Kathleen Badalis

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services – Lilys Duran

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Principal – Melissa Kulick

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Resolution – Transfer of Acting Vice Principal – Francesca Ferrera

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

The second reading of the following new policy was done:

4111.2/4211.2 Policy Domestic Violence

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

Minutes of the November 19, 2018 Agenda and Business Meetings

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

Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with waiver of fees

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with fees

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

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 – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

Resolution – School Board Recognition Month

Resolution – South Bergen Jointure Commission Coordinated Transportation Services 2018-2019

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – HVAC Upgrades at School No. 15

Resolution – HVAC Upgrades at School No. 2

Resolution – HVAC Upgrades at School No. 16

Resolution – Domestic Violence Policy

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – EEA Grievance No. 12-15-06 PERC Docket No. AR-2015-307

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – J.G., S.F., J.G., D.M., D.M., M.H., and E.R.

Docket Nos. UNN-L-4363-15, UNN-L-2033-17, and UNN-L-1804-17

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2014-12865) – M.R.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Authorizations Report- Union County Night at the Theater Program, Union County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver, HealthCorps Living Labs, Pampered Chef LTD), Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (abstain- Personnel Report – F.M.), Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – F.M.) - 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho called for a motion off the floor.

Mr. Neron stated that at this time we have a vacancy we need to fill. Mr. Neron stated that we have gone through a process that has not been easy for the Board. Mr. Neron stated that whenever you have a vacancy it is a challenge to fill that vacancy and make sure that you can bring on somebody that can be dedicated and believe in the vision that you have, the vision for the district, and help push the team forward. Mr. Neron stated that we were extremely impressed on Saturday to hear all of the candidates. Mr. Neron stated that at this time he would like the general public and everyone to give them a round of applause for their resilience, dedication, and wanting to come forward to be part of this Board of Education. Mr. Neron stated that we are here day in and day out, we get countless calls, we are attacked time in and time out for the work that we do and for the work that some may feel we are not doing. Mr. Neron stated that it is all about accountability, coming forward, and wanting to step up as a leader. Mr. Neron commended them all and thanked them for participating. Mr. Neron stated that this evening the Board has been polled and we have a new Board member that will be joining us in January and we want to make the nomination tonight. Mr. Neron nominated Nathalie Hernandez.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to appoint Nathalie Hernandez to the Board to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any other nominations off the floor. Mrs. Carvalho asked if there was any discussion.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that she echoed what Mr. Neron said. Mrs. Barbosa stated that on Saturday there was a very important display of three people that came up to want to be part of the Board. Mrs. Barbosa commended all three of them for their hard work and wished them good luck in the future, whatever it may be that it brings them.

Mrs. Carvalho echoed what Mrs. Barbosa said that on Saturday was a display of your passion for education and passion to do good things for the community and for the children of the City of Elizabeth. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she hopes everyone here continues to work towards a better tomorrow for Elizabeth and that is what we are all here for. Mrs. Carvalho wished everyone good luck and stated that she hopes that you continue to work with us because it takes a village to raise our children here in Elizabeth. Mrs. Carvalho stated that together we have to work or else it will never get done. Mrs. Carvalho stated that whether you are sitting here or sitting there we need each and every one of you to work with us.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 7
Negative: None

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