

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

February 13, 2018  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called on February 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., 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 5:35 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 February 8, 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 February 13, 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 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, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez (arr. 6:00 p.m.), Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Absent: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Neron – 2

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, Acting Assistant Superintendent for 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 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 Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Transportation Michael Rijo, Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt, Acting Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Director of Elementary and Secondary Daphne Marchetti, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes, Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez, Director of Special Projects

Dorothy Hannigan-McMullen, and Purchasing Agent Mario Rodrigues. The Board reviewed the agenda for the February 22, 2018 regular meeting.

Minutes of the Meetings of January 3 and 18, 2018  
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2017

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Minutes of the Meetings of January 3 and 18, 2018 and the Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2017 to the agenda.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta speak about 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 asked about First Children LLC and Honor Ridge.

Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez explained that First Children LLC is a new placement for children who are transferred from another facility. Mrs. Pinto-Gomez stated that we have done business with Honor Ridge before.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the tuition for Toms River.

Mrs. Pinto-Gomez explained.

Mrs. Barbosa asked the transportation.

Director of Transportation Michael Rijo stated that we contract with the Union County Commission and they transport the students.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Tuition Report to the agenda.

Supplemental Tuition Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Supplemental Tuition Report to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that several principals expressed an interest in a conference to be held in the summer, *The Power of Mindsets: Promoting Positive School Climates and Motivation in Students*, to help students cope and reduce their anxiety.

Mrs. Carvalho asked why some are pending approval.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the state regulations that require approval from the Executive County Superintendent.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

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

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he received an additional request from At Heart's Length to be added to the report.

Mr. Nina asked why it is late.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is for the championship game and awards.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

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

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if they can request any facility.

Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto explained that usually they indicate which facility they would like to use.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

#### Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes speak about the requests for field trips.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes stated that there are 101 trips requested of which 43 are for high schools. Mr. Cortes stated that 26 of the trips are to visit colleges and universities.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report 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 Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt speak about the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) grant.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt stated that we are the recipient of a \$40,000. grant from the Food Research and Action Center to expand breakfast in the high schools with implementation in September 2018.

Mrs. Barbosa asked why those schools were selected.

Ms. Leavitt stated only five schools are allowed and a significant amount of data was provided to FRAC and they selected five schools.

Mr. Jacobs asked about the non-instructional equipment in the grant.

Ms. Leavitt stated that a kiosk will be purchased.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt speak about the AVID professional development.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt stated that Michael Ojeda, Principal of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, has been selected to be an AVID Staff Developer. Mr. Goldblatt stated that he will be able to train EPS staff members on the implementation of the AVID system at no cost to the Board.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno speak about the donation.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno thanked Senator Lesniak for his donation of a Yamaha Parlor Piano to Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson speak about the fundraisers.

Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson stated that there are 148 fundraisers for a variety of activities that support field trips, dances, National Honor Society induction ceremonies, and organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

#### Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Security Matthew Glackin speak about the School Emergency Preparedness Study.

Director of Security Matthew Glackin stated that they are participating in School Emergency Preparedness Study sponsored by the National Institute of Justice. Mr. Glackin stated that districts across the country are participating in the voluntary online service on how school systems plan, train and prepare for violent emergency situations such as an active shooter event.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the Apple Distinguished Schools program.

Mrs. Cedeno stated that Terence C. Reilly is an Apple Distinguished School. Mrs. Cedeno stated that there are certain things they have to do including a visit from other school districts.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

#### Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Nina asked about the payment to the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we decided to join.

Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta stated that he received an email from the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and recommended it to the Superintendent. Mr. Cuesta stated that it is a great opportunity to network and they have a wealth of resources.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Security Matthew Glackin speak about the contract with The TBL Group.

Mr. Glackin explained the active shooter training program for central office administration and principals with the TBL Group. Mr. Glackin stated that part of the training in December was active shooter and any catastrophic event and what do you do after a catastrophic event.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is a response to the State Department to have the plan on file.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if it is for teachers.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the teachers are trained in crisis and have drills each month. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that this is for the aftermath and how are we expected to operate.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that there is a contract for anti-bullying presentations at School No. 12.

Director of Special Projects Dorothy Hannigan-McMullen stated that there are two contracts for Title I parent involvement. Mrs. Hannigan-McMullen stated that parent workshops will be at 16 schools.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if it starts now.

Mrs. Hannigan-McMullen stated that it will start once the contracts are Board approved.

Miss Goncalves asked if the workshops will be night or day to accommodate parent schedules.

Mrs. Hannigan-McMullen explained that the schedule depends on the principal and parent groups.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Award of Contracts Report to the agenda.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Second Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the reports.

Mrs. Carvalho added the reports to the agenda.

Miscellaneous Communication

Claims List

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

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

Resolution – Revised Schedule of Board Meetings

Resolution – Music in Our Schools Month

Resolution – National School Social Workers’ Week

Resolution – Read Across America

Resolution – St. Joseph’s Day

Resolution – St. Patrick’s Day

Resolution – Women’s History Month

Resolution – Youth Art Month

Resolution – National School Breakfast Week

Resolution – National Nutrition Month

Resolution – Warren County Special Services School District Coordinated Transportation Services for the 2018-2019 School Year

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Revised Schedule of Board Meetings may have a conflict of two dates. Mr. Kennedy stated that the 2018-2019 school calendar is made using a similar prior year calendar and explained the conflicts.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that they would look at the dates before the next meeting.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolutions to the agenda.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he had a question on the Personnel Report and asked why the Saturday Intensification Program does not include School No. 1.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the program is funded through Title I and the Principal is in the process of putting the program recommendations through for the March meeting.

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Burlington County Special Services School District Coordinated Transportation Services for the 2017-2018 School Year

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Resolution – Authorizing the Issuance of a Request for Bids Pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law Joint Purchasing Authority to Seek Quotes for Lease Purchase Financing for Five Additional School Busses

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

Resolution – Revised Policy and Regulation

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there will be a second reading and then adoption.

Mrs. Carvalho added the resolution to the agenda.

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, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, asked why the public participation was not at the beginning of the meeting. Mrs. Moreira spoke about health concerns with the flu and parents want to know the protocol of disinfecting the schools. Mrs. Moreira stated that in the past Merlin Soccer and NJ Soccer Club used our facilities and the fees were not waived. Mrs. Moreira stated that the clubs are charging the families to join and we have to consider the wear and tear on our fields. Mrs. Moreira asked why two higher education institutions, one for a doctoral program, are using our facilities for free. Mrs. Moreira spoke about the junior and senior names being given to military recruiters and stated that other districts have the FERPA information on their websites.

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

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the health of our students is important and the number of flu cases in Union County is low compared to other parts of the country. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as of January 31, there have been 16 cases of the flu and gives credit to the Plant and Property Department, nurses, and principals. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is certainly an important issue. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that their prayers go out to the family of the five-year old in North Bergen.

Mr. Rodriguez asked Director of Transportation Michael Rijo about tracking the outside bus companies that are late picking up our students.

Mr. Rijo stated that normally we count on the outside busses to let us know when they are late and then we call the principal.

Mr. Rodriguez requested that a report be formulated showing which bus companies are late so we can look at it before the bids come due.

Mr. Rijo stated that there is a form that most schools fill out.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked how we track behavior on the busses.

Mr. Rijo stated that we rely on the principals to take action which may be suspending them from student transportation.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Acting Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino for an update on the athletic programs.

Acting Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino stated that the boys' swimming team qualified for the State Championships. Mr. Candelino stated that the boys' basketball team did not qualify with a record of 7-20, the girls' basketball team qualified for the State Championships with a 9-13 regular season, the boys' track team qualified for the State Championships, and the wrestling team qualified for the State Championships with a record of 13-8. Mr. Candelino stated that we increased our middle school athletic programs.

Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez stated that 40 students participated in the Special Olympics and 7 students made it to the second round. Mrs. Pinto-Gomez stated that track and field for Special Olympics will be starting and School Nos. 12 and 21 will be joining the program.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, reorganization, and fit for duty, V.L. and M.P.; legal, specifically, settlement agreement B.B.; award of contract - solar; and workers' compensation claims, specifically, D.S., E.S., G.F., G.K., A.G., G.M., M.V., and S.W. The Board will reconvene in public to add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to go into private session at 6:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 8:35p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho amended the private session statement to include personnel, specifically, M.L.

Mrs. Carvalho added the following resolutions to the agenda:

Supplemental Personnel Report

Award of Contract – Solar Renewable Energy Program

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – B.B.

Resolution – Fit for Duty – V.L.

Resolution – Fit for Duty – M.P.

Resolution – Extension of Appointment for Acting Vice Principal – Maria Lojo

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim – A.G.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim – G.M.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim – M.V.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim – S.W.

On a motion by Mr. Nina, seconded by Miss Goncalves, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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