

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 19, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50, 1000 South Elmora Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves presented the following statement at 6:45 p.m.

“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 March 11, 2019. 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: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 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, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and members of the public were in attendance.

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 Jacob Bocanegra and Analeah Patino, PreK students at Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Karen Pajak, music teacher at Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50.

The Early Childhood Pledge of Ethics was led by Noah Spencer and Anabella Fernandez, PreK students at Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50.

Miss Goncalves introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs.

Miss Goncalves introduced PreK students from Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50 who performed *Hello Everybody* by Kenneth Guilmartin; the *Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50 Motto*; *Shosholsa*, a traditional song from South Africa; *The Irish Washwoman*, a traditional Irish Jig; and the *Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50 Song* by J. Mark Dunn. Miss Goncalves thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized Mr. Patrick Hackett for his generous donations to the Elizabeth Public Schools including a check last year for \$7,500. for 25 eleventh grade students and a check this year for \$15,000. for 50 eleventh grade students for the Princeton Review which is a college admission services company offering test preparation services, tutoring and admission resources, and online courses. Mrs. Carvalho stated that Mr. Patrick Hackett also gave a check for \$2,400. to have a workshop by Peter Van Buskirk, who is an expert in the college admission process, for high school students, parents, staff members, and guidance counselors in the district. Mrs. Carvalho read a resolution in honor of the extraordinary level of generosity exhibited by Mr. Patrick Hackett through his charitable endeavors. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members presented a resolution to Mr. Patrick Hackett and thanked him for his generosity.

Mrs. Hernandez recognized Michelle Nam, mathematics teacher at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy as a star of excellence. Mrs. Hernandez stated that Michelle Nam helped connect us with Mr. Joseph Kupetz after learning on social media of his interest to donate more than 10,000 library books to a school district. Mrs. Hernandez stated that Mr. Joseph Kupetz donated the books to the library at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Mrs. Hernandez and Board members congratulated Michelle Nam and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Miss Goncalves stated that she has designated office hours every Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to meet with her and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Miss Goncalves stated that she has visited several more of our schools on her President's *One of Kind* Tour and saw the activities they prepared for special events such as Read Across America and Women's History Month.

Miss Goncalves acknowledged all the women who serve our central offices and schools as administrators, teachers, certified staff, and support staff for their unwavering commitment to preparing our students to succeed in college, in their career, and in their lives. Miss Goncalves recognized her colleagues Diane Barbosa, Charlene Bathelus, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Nathalie Hernandez, and Rosa Moreno-Ortega who are so supportive, work so hard, and dedicate so much time to serving the Elizabeth community. Miss Goncalves stated that sitting as president alongside a woman vice president on a women majority board of education and seeing other women leaders in elected positions from the municipal level up to the United States Congress shows the amazing progress we have made as women. Miss Goncalves stated that she is proud to be part of this progress that continues to empower women to have positive and indelible impacts on their communities. Miss Goncalves stated that she sees the promise of our young women at our schools and is eager to see them continue to grow and eventually step up as the next generation of leaders in our community and beyond.

Miss Goncalves stated that April is Autism Awareness Month and the highest rate in the U.S. at which autism affects children, 1 in 34 children in New Jersey, is a powerful reminder of the critically important work we have before us to ensure every child receives a high quality education that prepares them for future success and to make positive contributions to society. Miss Goncalves stated that during her visits to more schools next month she is looking forward to seeing how we are providing equity at our schools to address all of our students' needs as well as the autism awareness activities from our very socially conscious schools.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves 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.”

Miss Goncalves called upon the first public participant, Ana Texeiro, to address the Board.

Ana Texeiro, 575 Second Avenue, stated that her child’s teacher has been absent and there has been no substitute teacher for the last week.

Miss Goncalves thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Cynthia Herrera, to address the Board.

Cynthia Herrera, 203 Rankin Street, stated that she has the same concerns as the previous speaker and is concerned about her child’s class that doesn’t have a substitute teacher.

Miss Goncalves thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Jakelyn Navarro, to address the Board.

Jakelyn Navarro, 322 Spencer Street, stated that she has three children at three different schools and spoke about her child’s class that has not had a substitute teacher in 7 days. Mrs. Navarro stated that there is no air conditioning at School No. 15.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that School No. 15 is one of three schools scheduled for air conditioning.

Miss Goncalves thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Crystal Paz, to address the Board.

Crystal Paz, 22 Florida Street, spoke about a problem with her child who has special needs and is being evaluated for an IEP.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she will coordinate a meeting tomorrow with her and the Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez.

Miss Goncalves thanked her for her comments.

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

Miss Goncalves introduced a video presentation of the Board President’s *One of a Kind* Tour.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically tradesmen contract; and legal matters, specifically, technology security. The board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to go into private session at 7:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 9:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer 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. Mrs. Hugelmeyer 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 Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to accept the above report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement – Tradesmen

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to add the above to the agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

The second reading of the following revised bylaw was done:

File Code 9400(X) Exhibit Board Self-Evaluation Form

The first reading of the following new policy was done:

File Code 2225 Policy Equity

Mrs. Barbosa requested the following be tabled:

Resolution – Approving Renewal of Cream-O-Land Dairies – Dairy Products (TABLED)

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to table the above resolution.

The motion to table the resolution was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs requested the following be tabled:

Resolution – Approving Renewal of Appco Paper Products (TABLED)

Resolution – Approving Renewal of American Commercial Equipment Repair (TABLED)

Resolution – Approving Renewal of Cream-O-Land Diaries – Fluid Juice Products (TABLED)

Resolution – Approving Renewal of RP Baking LLC (TABLED)

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to table the above resolutions.

The motion to table the resolutions was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the Meetings of February 4, 9, 11, and 21, 2019

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for the Month of January 2019

Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent’s Report – Considerations

Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities

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 – Revised Bylaw File Code 9400(X) Board Self Evaluation Exhibit

Resolution – Retroactive Salary Adjustment – Tomas Escribano

Resolution – Gloucester County Special Services Cooperative Transportation Agreement 2018-2019

Resolution – Application to NJDOE for Schematic Plan Review – Nos. 23 and 30 HVAC Chillers

Resolution – Autism Awareness Month

Resolution – National Library Week

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

Resolution – Maximum Travel Expenditures for 2019-2020

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2005-6634) – M.L.

Resolution – Termination of Employment – N.G.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2016-25205) – S.C.

Resolution – Awarding Contracts to Trane US, Inc. for HVAC Upgrades

Resolution – Adoption of Tentative Budget 2019-2020

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement – Tradesmen

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, 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’s), Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – M.G.; Superintendent’s Report – Considerations- J.C.), Mrs. Chevres (abstain- Personnel Report – J.R.; Superintendent’s Report – Considerations – L.C.), Mrs. Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (abstain- Authorizations Report – R.M.), Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves asked if there was any old business. Miss Goncalves asked if there was any new business.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone for supporting Women's History Month. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we had some amazing speakers who went to our schools including Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste, City of Elizabeth Business Administrator Bridget Anderson, Union County Division of Youth Services Assistant Director Norma M. Nunez, Public Information Officer Kelly Martins, and Elizabeth Police Department officers including Jennifer Perez and Debbie Anderson. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it was impressive to see how our young ladies reacted to having women who spoke to them and showed them that they can be whatever they want to be and that a woman's role is not to be at home cooking and cleaning. Mrs. Carvalho stated that these are women who run government and who run businesses and showed them that they came from exactly where the students are. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the women are from Elizabeth and work in the surrounding towns, cities, and government offices. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the young ladies connected with them and some of our high school young ladies have reached out to some of the speakers and they are going to keep in touch with each other. Mrs. Carvalho stated that they have inspired these young ladies to be future leaders. Mrs. Carvalho thanked her fellow board members, superintendent, and all of our staff for allowing this to happen and she hopes that they support this initiative again next year. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is important for the young ladies in our schools to know that they have people to look up to who have great careers and that can be them someday.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that April is Autism Awareness Month and the Awareness Calendar will be heavily stocked with all of the highlights that will be going on throughout the district. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are going to make it a big month to celebrate our special needs children and she will keep everyone updated.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the policy committee for presenting the equity policy and she is looking forward to working with our district to implement it. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is very excited that we are one of the first urban district to have this kind of policy and if you search on the internet there are not too many districts in New Jersey that have it. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega gave a special thank you to board member Jerry Jacobs as the chairperson of the committee.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked members of the community who collected supplies and clothes for our families affected by the fire in the City. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that everyone knows the families affected and thanked those who collected for taking time from their personal time to deliver clothes, supplies, and food.

Miss Goncalves stated that tonight we passed a balanced budget and thanked the finance committee, business department, and everyone who has worked tirelessly, day after day. Miss Goncalves stated that so many hours were put into this and she is happy to announce that we have a 0% tax increase. Miss Goncalves stated that they are looking forward to doing what is right and what is right for our students.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is happy for the budget and our community. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is proud of each of the board members who are part of the committee for working hard. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that another urban district, Jersey City, will be affected and minus \$39 million and she is happy that we will not be affected here in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked the finance committee, chairperson Stanley Neron, comptroller, business administrator, superintendent, and everyone who put in countless hours of work that has gone into preparing this budget. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it seems that it would get easier but it gets harder year after year to balance a budget and be able to go back to the teachers and staff and say there are no layoffs and to tell people in the City of Elizabeth that there will not be a tax

increase. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is because of the hard work, not only of the finance committee and the board members, but of the staff we have. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the board members for believing in each other and knowing that when there is a will there is a way not to lay people off and not to raise taxes.

On a motion by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

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