

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

March 19, 2020  
Elizabeth, New

Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on March 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. on an online platform.

Board President Diane Barbosa presented the following statement at 6:30 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 using an online platform was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Monday, March 16, 2020. In addition, this notice is posted 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.”

“There will be an online public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must register online up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form lists the name, email, phone number of the person, and who wants to comment.”

Present: Charlene Bathelus, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Nathalie Hernandez, Jerry Jacobs, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Stanley Neron, Stephanie Pestana, Diane Barbosa – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., and Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP were on the online platform.

Mrs. Barbosa welcomed everyone listening to the online meeting. Mrs. Barbosa asked Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq., to speak.

Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq., stated that we obviously are in difficult times. Mr. Williams stated that the arrangement for this type of meeting is anticipated and is authorized by law. Mr. Williams stated that the Board meeting in this fashion is alright as long as the public has access to the website which we have arranged for. Mr. Williams stated that tonight, among other things, there is the budget and a preliminary budget resolution which is required by statute to be adopted by a certain date. Mr. Williams stated that the budget has been distributed online and distributed to all the Board members who are voting tonight. Mr. Williams stated that there is no way to avoid the legislature intent to have the budget approved tonight. Mr. Williams stated that we are going to comply with what the New Jersey Department of Education is requiring. Mr. Williams stated that aside from that, every other aspect of this meeting has been in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Mr. Williams urged the Board members to go forward and afford the public the opportunity to speak publicly at the appropriate time.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked Mr. Williams for the introduction. Mrs. Barbosa stated that it is very important and appropriate for us to hear from Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer stated that she would like to present a summary of this past week and all of our efforts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is important that we continue to work collectively to help flatten the curve and we have to be mindful of social distancing and good hygiene. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is a rapidly evolving crisis and we know that there will

be things that we cannot control or have anticipated but her assurance that she would like to provide our school community is that we have a highly competent and resourceful team at every level and every site. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are in daily communication with our federal, state, county, and local health and emergency officials to ensure the safety of our students and our team members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this evening she will provide our school community with a summary of our team efforts since our last Board meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in preparation for this extended school closure, all students were provided with access to lessons that covered instruction for a total of fourteen to thirty days. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m. students were dismissed and instructed to follow the E-remote learning plan. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we distributed all instructional packets on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to all students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition, principals contacted the homes of students who had been absent on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and also the homes of the students who were absent on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> requesting that the parents stop by the school to pick up the instructional packets or the laptops for the students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that many parents responded by picking up the packets and laptops on Friday and throughout the day on Monday. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition, School Nos. 1, 13, and 25 opened their doors on Saturday morning to give parents the opportunity to pick up their packets and laptops. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are incredibly grateful to our parents responding to the multitude of phone calls and emails to make sure that our children are properly supported during this time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all students in grades PreK – 2 were provided traditional instructional packets that included all instruction in content areas and special areas. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we distributed 19,587 laptops to all students in grades 3-12 so that they could access PowerSchool Unified Classroom which served as our educational curricula outside of the traditional classroom. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our teachers have been assisting our students via PowerSchool Unified Classroom during the specific hours of 9:00a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. every day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that PowerSchool Unified Classroom is allowing our students to access information, their assignments, a multitude of resources, the ability to communicate with their teachers, they can submit their work, and they can receive feedback. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our classrooms that had a substitute teacher were covered by certified teachers to ensure that all classrooms were communicating with parents and students to support them through E-remote learning plan. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we reviewed our school preparedness plan with all of our administrators and we provided proper orientation for the teachers in a professional development session we held this past Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she also met with our principals on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. to debrief and to communicate expectations during this school closure. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that upon returning to central office on Monday afternoon, her administration team and she prepared the instructional packets for our students in grades PreK – 2 that were not picked up by parents or that the children had not taken home. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they prepared all of the mailings for the following day and a total of 193 packets were properly packaged and delivered to the Post Office for prompt delivery on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition a total of 16 laptops were delivered to the homes of our students in grades 3-12 on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> by our investigators. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she has worked with our IT team to develop a parent survey that has helped us to assess how readily available technology and internet access are for our children at home. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this survey was made available to our families last week with a deadline of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that online surveys and paper surveys were disseminated and as we were finalizing our number of families without internet access we were contacted by Altice alerting us that internet access would be free of charge to our district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this positioned our district to be able to provide every single parent with access to our content on our students' laptops and we are truly grateful and it was wonderful to hear that it was being made available to us for free.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there has been daily contact with our state and local officials during this time and daily phone calls have taken place over the past two weeks with Mayor Bollwage, Board President Barbosa, City Health Officer Mark Colicchio, and our County Superintendent Daryl Palmieri. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in preparation for the closure that took place on March 16<sup>th</sup> daily phone calls throughout the weekend on Saturday and Sunday took

place with our NJ Commissioner of Education, NJ Office of Emergency Management, Union County Superintendent, Mayor, and Board President. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in our parent communication that went home on March 16, 2020 we included various resources in order to support our families and ensured that we communicated that they could always refer to our district website for updates which also include non-school resources that parents could take advantage of during this time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we also reminded our parents with regard to what an average day would look like for our students and we included that the E-remote learning platform would officially open at noon on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that district emails and passwords were included in the communication in case students needed support. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we included direction to PowerSchool, directions for log-in to Outlook for our parents, instructions on how to access PowerSchool Unified Classroom, help and resource page, and also information on how to access the free Wi-Fi that was being made available. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we know that this is a very difficult time for our students so we included resources on our wellness page that included community resources and specifically, resources on how to talk to your children about this situation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we reminded our parents that all guidance counselors, social workers, and case managers would be available for any questions that our parents may have.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Tuesday, March 17, 2020 marked the first day of remote learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our incredible IT Department monitored internet access and PowerSchool access via email. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we did experience a nation-wide failure for one hour on PowerSchool as well as technical issues with Altice all of which was resolved by 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Help Desk assisted parents with various questions about accessing the system. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we continue to experience short periods of time where our parents were communicating a challenge with accessing PowerSchool and we continue to provide updates throughout the day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all instructional directors communicated with department staff to ensure that all parental concerns and questions were being addressed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our special education case managers maintain regular communication with parents to address all questions and concerns. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we also worked on finalizing our food and nutrition plan that was to be rolled out on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that robocalls were prepared to each of our free and reduced lunch eligible parents with information about our Grab-n-Go program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a Grab-n-Go program was designed for all free and reduced lunch eligible families for breakfast and lunch for their children. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we also developed a security plan in collaboration with Sheriff Corvelli and Deputy Chief Sacca. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a total of 17 law enforcement officers were provided to support us at our eight locations throughout the City of Elizabeth to service our 22,000 students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that March 18<sup>th</sup> was the first day of our Grab-n-Go breakfast and a total of 771 breakfast packages and 858 lunch packages for a total of 1,629 meals were distributed to our parents and students district-wide at our eight locations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition, our IT personnel assisted parents with technology issues, exchanging charging ports, assisting with log-in information and answering any questions with regard to accessing the content. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> was the second day of our Grab-n-Go breakfast and lunch program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we continued to experience interruptions of PowerSchool and we conducted a conference call this afternoon to obtain further information to assist our school community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that PowerSchool shared with them that within the past two days PowerSchool learning has seen unprecedented volume due to an increased demand for distance learning tools across the nation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this increase in usage is caused by the recent and evolving COVID-19 situation that is affecting many of us in our community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there is a dedicated PowerSchool team that is working around the clock to restore the existing functionality and improve performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they remain in contact with this team day and night and as of today significant improvements were reported and reduced load times from 12 seconds per page to 1 second per page. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we were able to see an improvement for access to PowerSchool. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that PowerSchool is committed to work on this issue until the site returns to normal performance levels. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our food and nutrition team members prepared sufficient meals to service

our community today and a total of 2,828 meals were distributed to our parents and students district-wide. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our Elizabeth Police Officers delivered meals to the homes of our neediest families that had reported an inability to visit one of our eight schools to obtain the meals. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is truly grateful to the dedication of our Elizabeth Public Schools team members and all of those who are assisting us to continue to serve our district during these challenging times. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that her intent is to continue to communicate with our school community on a daily basis and continue to provide updates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is our first time going through such a difficult situation and she certainly counts on all of parents to continue to communicate with us and our team members to continue to support our children.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer. Mrs. Barbosa asked if the Board members would like to comment or express their concerns.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the Superintendent, Assisitant Superintendents, supervisors, administrators, and fellow Board members for their great work during this difficult time. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the teachers who are working very hard during this time to create lesson plans. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the technology department, custodians, and security staff. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the parents and guardians for their patience during this time. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the entire school community for working together during this difficult time.

Mr. Neron stated that he wanted to reach out and say thank you to everyone for their cooperation during this time. Mr. Neron stated that it is a very difficult time and very challenging for everyone. Mr. Neron stated that the world that we had yesterday is very different today and we are approaching a new era in our community. Mr. Neron stated that without the cooperation of all of our parents, our community, team members, local government, state, federal, and especially our Superintendent we wouldn't have been able to do what we have done. Mr. Neron stated that they take their hats off to the leadership in our district for not only being prepared to embark on this journey but to carry us through and not give up. Mr. Neron stated that every day has its challenges both personally and professionally as we continue to do this work. Mr. Neron extended his appreciation to everyone and wanted to thank the Board members for being unified, the entire staff, and the community for banding together. Mr. Neron stated that we are going to be able to do this and we have to have faith and stay focused and we will get through this.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone at the Elizabeth Board of Education for everything that they are doing. Mrs. Carvalho thanked our investigators, food service workers, employees who are home, teachers who are going above and beyond to make sure that children have some kind of normal in what our new normal is going to be for who knows how long. Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone who is making sure that we are guiding people to get their information from the right sources. Mrs. Carvalho stated that parents need to know that our website page, our internet source of information, and to get their information from the source. Mrs. Carvalho stated that people need to stop getting information from other sites that copy and paste and that they need to make sure they are getting the information from the Elizabeth Board of Education website. Mrs. Carvalho stated that if they have questions or concerns, re-route them toward the Elizabeth Board of Education so that they get the right information for their children. Mrs. Carvalho thanked all of the Board members for being unified, as Mr. Neron stated. Mrs. Carvalho stated that without us being united and on the same page, it would only make it more difficult for the children that are home. Mrs. Carvalho stated that God bless all of us in what this new future and the new norm is for us for the next few months.

Mr. Jacobs echoed the same sentiments of Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Neron, and Mrs. Moreno-Ortega. Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone at the Board of Education who has also gone above and beyond from our Superintendent all the way down to every team member. Mr. Jacobs thanked the teachers for going above and beyond in this new norm. Mr. Jacobs stated that everyone is

performing at 150% and everyone should be proud of our district and how we are handling this situation. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is very happy that we were able to introduce the Grab-n-Go program on Wednesday. Mr. Jacobs stated that everyone has done an exceptional job and thanked everyone from the bottom of his heart. Mr. Jacobs thanked his fellow Board members for being unified and all together as well.

Mrs. Hernandez echoed the gratitude that everyone has expressed for all of our staff members and everyone at the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mrs. Hernandez stated that we will get through this one day at a time. Mrs. Hernandez stated that she is stressing to the families and everyone to not lose hope because they are there for you and your families and we are doing everything and at the best rate that we can. Mrs. Hernandez stated that she is very grateful and everyone needs to be patient and we will get through this.

Mrs. Pestana echoed the sentiments of her fellow Board members and thanked everyone. Mrs. Pestana stated that this is proof that it takes a village. Mrs. Pestana stated that this is only Day 3 and we have been as prepared as we could have because of everyone working diligently. Mrs. Pestana stated that we are doing the best that we could all the way our administrators, teachers, custodians, food service workers, parents, and caregivers. Mrs. Pestana thanked everyone and stated that we need to take it one day at a time.

Ms. Bathelus echoed the sentiments of her fellow Board members and stated that they are extremely grateful to every person that had a hand in making everything happen over the last week possible. Ms. Bathelus stated that she knows it wasn't easy and they stressed out the Board President with all the questions they had and then the Board President brought all the questions to the Superintendent. Ms. Bathelus stated that they are so thankful that everyone was able to put this together for our district, especially the size of our district. Ms. Bathelus stated that one of our teachers said, "our district and our Board leadership have been amazing during this time and we are hands down the Number One school district in the nation, if you ask me. I have friends in other districts who commend us on being on point. Job well done." Ms. Bathelus stated that she shared that with our Board and that we are doing a great job. Ms. Bathelus stated that we don't know what the unknown is but at the end of the day we just have to trust one another that we are all here for the same reason. Ms. Bathelus stated that the reason why we were elected to serve on this Board is because we have chosen to stand for each child in this district. Ms. Bathelus stated that all 29,000 children are our children and we want to make sure that they are successful and that they get the education that they need to get in any way possible. Ms. Bathelus stated that by us having online learning system and Grab-n-Go is a way that we are committed to continuing this school year with them. Ms. Bathelus thanked everyone and stated that the Board members are doing a great job, the administrators are doing a great job, and they truly appreciate all of our staff members.

Mrs. Chevres thanked all the staff for supporting our team members and most important our parents during this transition. Mrs. Chevres stated that she knows it is a hard time for all of our special education students. Mrs. Chevres stated that we are working together to provide the support to our families and let's continue to work together to make the transition and the process possible.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that as we are going through this week and upcoming weeks not knowing what to expect, we are here with the knowledge and experience that is an unforgettable experience that we would never plan on being part of as Board members, as Superintendent, as teachers, as parents. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we have gone down a road that we never dreamed of but we are here. Mrs. Barbosa stated that they have bypassed a lot of hurdles and we did it. Mrs. Barbosa stated that there are a lot of things that have to be modified and we fix them. Mrs. Barbosa stated that one thing is for sure, we sent our students home with all that could have been sent. Mrs. Barbosa stated that they understand that the learning must continue. Mrs. Barbosa stated that our students are in a different area right now but the learning must continue and the communication must continue between our parents and between our teachers. Mrs. Barbosa stated that is why you log-on to our website and download our EPS app and that is the way to communicate. Mrs. Barbosa

stated that it is always being updated and we have great communication with our community and everything is being filtered through them. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we try to make this process the easiest process possible. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she would like to address things on the website like tutorial videos, and an understanding of how-to is important. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she sits here as a parent and as Board President that strives every day to make this the best unknown trail possible. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we have to embark through this together. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she is proud to be an Elizabeth parent and proud to be a Board member. Mrs. Barbosa said bravo to all of the EPS team that got us to where we are sitting today. Mrs. Barbosa stated that they have met weekly for the last two and one-half months to bring together what is their budget and that will be going in today. Mrs. Barbosa stated that it is very important considering the large budget that we have. Mrs. Barbosa said bravo to our team and everyone who worked so hard to make that work.

Board President Barbosa presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the meeting is open for public comments online to those who have registered with the online participation form prior to this session. The Secretary of the Board shall call individuals to participate based on the order of the form. Each statement submitted 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 the Board members individually.”

Mr. Kennedy called upon the first participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about the emergency preparedness plan and special education.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Barbosa called three times for the next participant, Nicole Green, to address the Board. Since she did not respond, Mrs. Barbosa called three times upon the next participant, Veronica Burhal, to address the Board. Since she did not respond, Mrs. Barbosa called three times upon the next participant, Naomi Strike, to address the Board. Since she did not respond, Mrs. Barbosa called three times upon the next participant, Patricia Hall, to address the Board. Since she did not respond, Mrs. Barbosa called upon the next participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Michelle Santos, 55 Erie Street, spoke about special education.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her for her comments.

Since there were no other public participants registered, Mrs. Barbosa closed this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Barbosa asked for a motion and a second to adopt the following agenda:  
Minutes of the Meetings of February 8, 13, and 20, 2020  
Secretary and Treasurer’s Report  
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  
Superintendent’s Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results  
Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report  
 Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report  
 Award of Contracts  
 Supplemental Award of Contracts  
 Miscellaneous Communication  
 Claims List  
 Resolution – U.C.E.S.C. Coordinated Transportation Services 2020-2021 School Year  
 Resolution – Autism Awareness Month  
 Resolution – National Library Week  
 Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver  
 Resolution – Appointing Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC and Approving Form of Contract  
 Resolution – Appointing RP Baking, LLC and Approving Form of Contract  
 Resolution – Appointing Mivila Corporation d/b/a Mivila Foods  
 Resolution – Revised Job Description – Teacher Instructional Coach (NAF)  
 Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds  
 Resolution – Maximum Travel Expenditure 2020-2021 School Year  
 Resolution – ESC of New Jersey Educational Services Agreement 2020-2025  
 Resolution – Appointing Brother Sister Duo, Inc. d/b/a Malachy Mechanical  
 Resolution - Revised Policy Personal Illness and Injury/Health and Hardship 4151.1/4251.1  
 Resolution - Appointing V. A. Tramontano & Son, Inc. for Fresh Produce  
 Resolution - Qualifying and Appointing Broker for Health/Major Medical, Prescription,  
 Dental, Vision and Voluntary Benefit Insurance Services  
 Resolution - Qualifying and Appointing Risk Manager  
 Resolution - Appointment of Principal – John Byrne  
 Resolution - Settlement of Workers' Comp – L.M.  
 Resolution - Settlement of Workers' Comp – A.B.  
 Resolution - Settlement of Workers' Comp – A.B.  
 Resolution - Settlement of Special Education – K.M.  
 Resolution - Adoption of Tentative Budget 2020-2021 School Year  
 Resolution - Appointing Appco Paper and Plastic Corp

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to adopt the agenda.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the tabled matter.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the item was removed from the agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Award of Contracts Report - County of Union), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Considerations – C.A., J.R.), Hernandez (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – County of Union), Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mmes. Pestana (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – County of Union), Barbosa (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Field Trips – Valenca; Award of Contracts Report – Valenca) – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa asked if the Board members had any questions or comments.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that some parents are concerned about the dates to complete assignments. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that for many parents the platform is new and for some parents they are just learning. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there is a definite date to complete assignments.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she would like to refer our parents to the Student Parent Handbook that is available on the website. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the Handbook there is

a great deal of information with regard to our E-remote learning plan. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have included the provision of a five-day make-up for any days that a child may not be able to log-on or may have certain challenges at home during this crisis that we are going through. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students are provided with five days with which to make up their assignments for that one day that they have missed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she can assure that in her conversations with our teachers and principals and our supervisors and directors, that any parent that reaches out and needs additional time we are more than supportive of that request. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that every day will be a different experience for our families such as those that may have different challenges as a result of who may be caring for their children and the level of support. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that right now the most important thing is to encourage our parents to continue to reach out to our teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the communication this far has been incredibly positive and our teachers are reaching out on a daily basis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have a lot of data that we are receiving and as long as we continue this communication we are able to respond appropriately to our families. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that right now the Handbook states five day make-up for one day and we are willing to be very flexible with that because this is a new experience. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the challenges will vary family to family.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he wanted to verify with Mr. Kennedy that we passed the Resolution for the Tentative Adoption of the Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year for a total budget amount of \$578,478,054. with no tax increase for the fourth or fifth consecutive year. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is very happy to see that we did receive the state aid that we did and we are very lucky that we did. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is the amount that we are submitting but we do have the ability to make changes to line items between now and our final Board meeting before submission.

Mr. Kennedy responded that is correct and the Board is authorizing his office to submit the budget as designed to the County Office for review and we are also setting the public hearing date of May 7<sup>th</sup> in this resolution.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked our finance committee chairperson Stanley Neron for all of his hard work and all of the Board members. Mrs. Carvalho stated that everyone has taken time to review this budget and everyone from our business administrator, comptroller, assistant superintendents, principals and this all trickle down the line. Mrs. Carvalho stated that everyone has been part of being able to present another budget, once again, we were able to have no cuts in service, no tax increase, and to make sure that there are no layoffs. Mrs. Carvalho stated that in this new norm this is still very important to make sure that we can still roll out paychecks so that people can care for our children. Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone who put their finger on this budget for this year. Mrs. Carvalho stated that as difficult as this new norm is for all of us this is probably one of the most important things that we could have done tonight.

Mr. Neron, Finance Committee Chairperson, thanked everyone for their support and hard work and stated that the entire district, administrators, comptroller, business administrator, superintendent, and directors were able to come together and really crunch these numbers over the past few months. Mr. Neron stated that we met continuously and thanked the leadership of our Board President for enforcing that and making sure that we did continue to communicate and meet. Mr. Neron stated that these were all of the challenges and obstacles that were in front of us. Mr. Neron stated that we were able to get through this budget and create a budget that is going to be satisfactory for the district and really make sure that we continue with our services. Mr. Neron stated that we anticipate that we will probably be having this conversation again once we come further down the line. Mr. Neron stated that we don't know what normal will look like anymore and we will have to make any necessary adjustments and we will have to adapt to our environment. Mr. Neron stated that we are all dedicated, committed, and we took an oath of office to work hard during these times and make sure that we do not fail our kids and families no matter what. Mr. Neron thanked everyone and stated that he is honored to serve alongside his fellow Board members.



Mrs. Barbosa stated that we took the oath and we do it every day. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we will continue as Mr. Neron said. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the budget will be submitted and Board business will continue, just like learning must continue. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we must continue and this is just a street that we have been put on and we have to work through it. Mrs. Barbosa stated to the parents that frustration occurs and things that you think you are not able to do, you can. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we just have to work through it and we work through it by reaching out, reaching out to your teachers and don't feel alone because we are in fact all together. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we all sit at home with our child afraid that they won't continue to learn but we have to have faith and we have to keep trying. Mrs. Barbosa stated that if you need more assistance, reach out. Mrs. Barbosa stated that right now, human to human contact becomes questionable in these next couple of days and try to keep this limited at the transmission and we want to do that. Mrs. Barbosa stated that there are still other sources of help that we can communicate through. Mrs. Barbosa stated to parents to reach out to our teacher and our staff if there is any frustration and any questions and any concerns, we are here, the Superintendent is here, and our team is here. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are in constant communication and we live our life, we are Elizabeth parents, and we are the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Barbosa thanked everyone who listened to our meeting tonight and stated that those who brought comments and concerns have been heard. Mrs. Barbosa stated God bless us and God bless the Elizabeth Public Schools and let the learning continue.

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mmes. Pestana, Barbosa – 9

Negative: None

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