

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

April 15, 2021
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on April 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207. The Meeting will be open to the public in person, however, in light of the public health emergency caused by Coronavirus the public will be required to follow all universal precautions including masks, temperature monitoring, visitor Covid monitoring sign-in log and social distancing. Space will be limited based on guidelines regarding social distancing and room capacity. Voice conferencing technology for the Thursday, April 15, 2021 Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. will continue to be available to the public at <https://www.facebook.com/epsnj> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/epschools>.

Board President Jerry Jacobs presented the following statement at 6:43 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 April 13, 2021. 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 here at School No. 51 and to our on-line viewers to this April 15, 2021 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 meeting 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. There will also 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 states the name and email of the person who wants to comment. Members of the public who prefer not to or do not have the means to participate using the online

platform may continue to participate by emailing statements relative to agenda items and/or educational matters to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org. All statements received will be read into the record during the Meeting’s Public Comment Portion. All emails must be submitted and received by the Secretary of the Board up to the start of the meeting and, as is always the case, must include the public member’s full name for the record. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. Emails received but not read after the 60 minute duration will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.”

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

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, were present. Members of the community were present in-person and via an online platform.

Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem

Mr. Jacobs welcomed our panel of health professionals including Dr. Guillermo Munoz, Chief Medical Inspector for the Elizabeth Board of Education and internist in Elizabeth; Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, internist in Elizabeth; and City Health Officer Mark Colicchio. Mr. Jacobs stated that as we begin to open our schools, we are all excited and happy that our children will have the opportunity to return. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have been visiting our schools this week and they are so happy that are staff are excited to welcome our children back to school next week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is our honor this evening to have Dr. Munoz, Dr. Tasharofi, and City of Elizabeth Health Officer Mark Colicchio. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have an opportunity this evening to share some of the questions that our teachers, principals, nurses, and parents have shared for the Question and Answer session.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented the Reopening Together Plan: Reopening of Schools for Grades PreK-3 Panel Discussion. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that tonight we have an opportunity to have a panel discussion with our health professionals and introduced City Health Officer Mark Colicchio, Dr. Guillermo Munoz, Chief Medical Inspector for the Elizabeth Board of Education and internist in Elizabeth, and Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, internist in Elizabeth.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed them and stated that they are here to help the parents, the Board members, staff members, and community understand the health and science data. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we compiled a list of questions from concerns we received and asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide with the following concern and question, “Our Preschool team members are very concerned that preschool students will not tolerate wearing a mask for four hours of instruction. Is there a concern with preschoolers not wearing the mask the entire time while they are in school?” Mrs.

Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide with the concern and question, “Our Preschool teachers and assistants are in close proximity to their students for an extended period of time while toileting students. The CDC requires social distancing at all times. Should they be concerned?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and question, “The CDC changed the guidelines for social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet. Our team members are very apprehensive about this change and whether they are at risk since it increases the number of students in a classroom and/or bus. What guidance can you provide?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and question, “We have an isolation room in every school as required by the state guidelines. Our school nurses would like to know how many potentially COVID positive students should be allowed in an isolation room at one time?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and questions, “The CDC had advised that the public should be double masking. If so, what type of mask should be worn? Is this advisable?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and questions, “Our PreK through Grade 3 students will receive breakfast every morning. We will provide adequate space for the students to eat their breakfast and abide by social distancing measures. Is there a concern with students taking their masks off for approximately 15-20 minutes to eat their breakfast? Does this risk exposure to our team members?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and question, “During Spring break, many of our families traveled both domestically and internationally and were required to quarantine as per the CDC guidelines. Our teachers are concerned that a parent may have forgotten to inform the school of their travel and subsequently, the child may be returning to the school earlier. Is there a risk for exposure?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and questions, “If a parent contracts COVID and the school is not notified in a timely manner, how likely is it that the child transmits COVID to other children or the teacher? What do the studies indicate with regard to the rate of transmission amongst children? Is the highest rate of transmission adult to adult or child to adult?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and questions, “The Spring season is known to cause allergies. We are uncertain as to whether a person is suffering from allergies or possible COVID symptoms. Should we require a doctor’s note if the adult or child do not typically suffer from seasonal allergies? Should we require a PCR test?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next question, “If a parent refuses to have their child wear a mask, should the only exception to wearing a mask be for medical reasons?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and questions, “We have experienced negative rapid test results followed by a positive PCR test result. Should we be accepting rapid test results? Are they reliable?” Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and questions, “There is a debate with regard to whether unvaccinated personnel should return to a

school setting. We understand that there are religious and medical exemptions with regard to vaccines. Are we putting others at risk? How should we address this important issue?" Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next questions, "If you are vaccinated, can you contract COVID? What is the current risk associated with contracting COVID while vaccinated?" Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the next concern and question, "Our nurses and nurse coordinator conduct contact tracing immediately upon notification that a team member or student are COVID positive. Can you please explain the process of contact tracing and why a contact of a contact is not required to quarantine?" Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked the panel of medical and health professionals to respond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the medical and health professionals for taking time to be with us tonight. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the doctors who were here this evening and our Health Officer who has been by her side throughout this pandemic and that she appreciates their time, commitment and availability to be here this evening. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to hear their responses helps the school community to understand the protocols and procedures and the mitigation procedures that are in place are keeping everyone safe in our school community.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer, Dr. Munoz, Dr. Tasharofi, and Mr. Colicchio for all of their work. Mr. Jacobs stated that since last year we made sure that we used science to guide our decision to make sure our kids come back to school safely. Mr. Jacobs thanked Board member Diane Barbosa who, as past Board President, started this medical panel and was the driver behind this. Mr. Jacobs stated that to make sure before we open this time, we revisited the medical panel to ensure the community that it was safe for the children to return and safe for the staff to return. Mr. Jacobs stated that he has been visiting the schools along with his colleagues and they are very excited and the staff is very excited about the return of our children. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is glad they had the opportunity to ask these questions that were out there in the community so they could be addressed and their fears could be alleviated.

Mr. Jacobs asked if any Board members had questions or comments.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the theater and arts. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we want to get our students back on the stage and our band back on the field and asked how we do that safely.

The medical and health professionals responded that it is very hard to social distance on the stage and it is very hard for the band to social distance on the field.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that our soccer players are on the field and our football players are on the field. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is very hard to tell our theater and band children that they can't do what they do and yet we are telling the other children they can. Mrs. Carvalho asked if there is a safe way to bring our arts program back.

Mr. Colicchio responded that it all depends on your definition of risk and safe. Mr. Colicchio stated that there is always a risk and explained the ways to minimize the risk including vaccinations.

Dr. Tasharofi responded that it is difficult to make arrangements and decisions about this. Dr. Tasharofi explained how another district that wants to bring basketball back to their school is using rapid antigen testing of both teams including referees and coaches and closed it to the public and parents for watching. Dr. Tasharofi stated that he believes each school can have their own protocols how we can make it safer and then bring some of these functions and events back.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that she wants everyone to understand how these questions were formulated. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she met with the Superintendent, nurses, and nurse coordinator and they brought questions that they received from their teachers and staff. Mrs. Barbosa thanked them for bringing that information. Mrs. Barbosa stated that a lot of the questions were good, formulated questions that lie behind our mind when we think about going back into our school setting. Mrs. Barbosa stated that a lot of our staff, team members, and parents are concerned. Mrs. Barbosa stated that a lot of what we went through this year is based on our medical health. Mrs. Barbosa stated that having the community doctors here who know a lot of our staff makes us feel comfortable and not only hearing what the Board of Education is doing as far as protocols but understanding logically how to take responsibility for your own health and the health of others around. Mrs. Barbosa stated that education has to continue but health correlates with that. Mrs. Barbosa asked the Superintendent if a member of the public can ask a question of our medical panel just to incorporate our community.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we could go over the protocols for the teachers and parents at home about what happens in a single classroom if someone has Covid, what happens in the school, how it breaks down, and the opinion of our doctors.

Mr. Jacobs called upon Danielle Fienberg to ask a question.

Danielle Fienberg asked about the choir and children singing safely.

Dr. Munoz responded that for the choir if they are socially distanced, they should be okay. Dr. Munoz stated that they do not have to take off their masks when they are not singing. Dr. Munoz stated that they can take off their masks when they are singing and socially distanced.

Dr. Tasharofi stated that he agrees that it can be done as long as they are socially distanced and they can take their masks off to sing. Dr. Tasharofi stated that singing should not be that difficult to coordinate.

Mr. Colicchio stated that some of our restaurants, not so much in Elizabeth, but last year summer during outdoor dining had live entertainment and singing. Mr. Colicchio stated that the singer was yards away from the general public and it turned out to be okay. Mr. Colicchio stated that he agrees with the doctors to socially distance and be as safe as you can.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked them and stated that she wants everyone to understand the relationship we have with our medical professionals who are one call away. Mrs. Barbosa stated that our Superintendent, Board President, and clinical committee are constantly in contact with them. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she wanted our team to feel safe that any questions or anything that we need to base our decisions on that we look to these three men and thanked them for their guidance.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Mrs. Barbosa for her leadership in making sure this happened because it is an integral part of our reopening process.

Mrs. Chevres asked if they could explain more about the dynamic in the busses. Mrs. Chevres stated that it is a main concern for many of our community members because the space is limited. Mrs. Chevres stated that parents have a lot of questions about it.

Mr. Colicchio stated that the last time he read some of the guidelines with busses, you are only allowed a certain amount of children per bus for social distancing. Mr. Colicchio stated that the busses are routinely and constantly cleaned and sprayed. Mr. Colicchio stated that the busses are constantly sanitized so that everything that can possibly be done is being done. Mr. Colicchio stated that bus drivers should be checking the temperatures as they arrive on the bus and anyone with a temperature of 100.4° or above should not be allowed on the bus and sent home. Mr. Colicchio stated that he believes requiring the wearing of masks of everyone that is on the bus.

Dr. Munoz stated that a healthy child who walks into a bus shouldn't have to worry about the risk so far. Dr. Munoz stated that it comes back to the responsibility of the parents and whether the child is sick or not whether they let the child go on the bus or not.

Mrs. Chevres stated that she knows the Board is working so hard to continue with the communication with the community and the parents and be clear. Mrs. Chevres stated that it is an important point for the parents to make sure that the survey is done every night to be sure before sending the child to school.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she would like the Superintendent to go over our protocols in front of our doctors so that we get their opinion because the rules and regulations have changed. Mrs. Carvalho asked what the procedure will be if the child has Covid in the classroom, does everyone have to quarantine, does the school quarantine, and what will be our procedure as of Monday when our schools will reopen.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that one of the questions she asked our medical panel this evening is with the isolation room and the number of children that should be in an isolation room. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated the importance of parents completing the Covid-19 student assessment every evening by 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that in the assessment there are five simple questions which identify key symptoms that we are asking our parents to be aware of and if the child is exhibiting those symptoms they are to remain at home and access their education virtually. Mrs. Hugelmeier explained the procedures if a child develops symptoms during the four hours of instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that if there are four cases, then the school is closed for a period of two weeks.

Mr. Colicchio stated that the Superintendent is correct with the procedures. Mr. Colicchio stated that the child cannot return to school until they are tested. Mr. Colicchio stated that adults also have to have personal responsibility. Mr. Colicchio stated that one of the most important things is that when you are sick, stay home.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that since July 1st, we instituted a checklist for all staff members and they are required to complete the checklist prior to entering our schools and prior to entering all our central offices. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it goes through the basic symptoms and with regard to exposure to someone who is Covid positive they are required to remain at home. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when they complete the checklist and any question that is marked yes, they immediately get a red x and are not cleared to enter our buildings. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that is the same information that she has been providing to our parents. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the student health assessment is critical. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our workshops every evening speak to that and the importance of our parents screening for symptoms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our doctors will remind her of asymptomatic cases in terms of being very cognizant of that. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the communication with our families is critical and we need to make sure that we are aware if there is a family member that is Covid positive and if they have travelled making sure that they adhere to the ten day quarantine at home and following up with testing.

Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez thanked the medical professionals for being here and asked if there is a difference for our staff if they quarantine for travel internationally or in the states.

Mr. Colicchio stated that a lot of it depends on whether they were vaccinated or not. Mr. Colicchio stated that if you are not vaccinated, it is seven to ten days with a test. Mr. Colicchio stated that if you are vaccinated, domestically you do not have to quarantine but internationally you still need a test. Mr. Colicchio stated that these things are updated constantly and students and staff should be following Board of Education policy on this.

Dr. Munoz stated that anyone who is travelling internationally always gets tested on the way out and on the way in so that is a little reassuring.

Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez asked if there is no quarantine if they travel internationally and they are vaccinated.

Mr. Colicchio stated that he believes there is a quarantine if they travel internationally but not if they travel domestically.

Mr. Jacobs thanked our medical panel and stated that this was an excellent opportunity for us to inform the community and alleviate any concerns and fears. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is very excited, along with his colleagues, for the reopening of the schools next week. Mr. Jacobs thanked the doctors and health officer for their advice and counsel and stated that it was much appreciated. Mr. Jacobs stated that just as it is being done on a national level we are following the science for reopening.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on March 22nd we had the pleasure of welcoming our autism children to our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as we prepare to welcome back our PreK-grade 3 students on Monday, April 19th each of our schools has prepared a welcome back video. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our parents will be able to see what the procedures are and how it is that we are prepared to welcome back our children. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there are 27

schools ready to welcome our children and presented the Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 Welcome Back to School video. Mrs. Hugelmeier thanked the principals, vice principals, support staff, custodians, and security guards who have been working so diligently preparing our schools for the opening.

Mrs. Hugelmeier presented the Reopening Together Plan: Welcome Back PreK-3 Students. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide showing our commitment to safe schools and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools maintains its pledge to open schools responsibly, guided by the principles of exceeding minimum expectations to place health and safety first for our students and team members, providing high-quality instruction to all students, and delivering accurate and timely communication to team members and families. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide showing our City of Elizabeth's commitment to safe schools and stated that Mayor J. Christian Bollwage made provisions for 2,340 vaccines for Elizabeth Public School team members. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide and stated to please refer to our Elizabeth Public Schools Reopening Together Plan Guidebook 2.0 for access to information regarding the extensive protective measures that have been put in place to make the return to school safe for children.

Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide about the Covid-19 Assessment and stated that all students and staff must continue to be screened for symptoms each day and parents or guardians must complete a Covid-19 Assessment every day for each child. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Covid-19 Assessment and stated that parents can access the daily Covid-19 Assessment on their child's iPad or laptop by tapping on the PowerSchool icon. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide about the Covid-19 Assessment and stated that the Covid-19 Assessment must be completed by the parent or guardian no later than 9:00 p.m. on the night before the child is attending school. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that if a child develops symptoms overnight, please contact the school. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Covid-19 Assessment is available in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Portuguese. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that parents and guardians will receive a daily phone call or text message with a reminder to complete the Covid-19 Assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that students will be excluded from entering classrooms if their parent has not completed the Covid-19 Assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that temperature screening for students and staff will be conducted using a contactless thermometer prior to board the school bus and prior to entering the school.

Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide about transportation and stated that transportation has been offered to parents that reside 2.0 miles and beyond and also for students whose IEP includes transportation services. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that all are socially distanced on the bus. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide about arrival and dismissal and stated that welcome back letters from principals will be sent home with detailed information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide about the daily virtual instructional support and stated that teachers will continue to be available daily to interact with their students through virtual support from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the PreK to 8 grade level. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide about the daily virtual instructional support and stated that teacher interaction in the afternoon may include small or whole group instruction, peer to peer instruction, follow-up, questions, and check-in. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that full-time distance learning has been

made available for students in high-risk health categories or who are not comfortable returning to school in-person.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about travel quarantine and stated that while our return date for PreK-3 students to in-person instruction is Monday, April 19th, individual travel quarantine circumstances may dictate a delayed return to school for your child. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that if you have traveled internationally (outside the United States) or within the United States to states other than New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Delaware, you and your child are required to quarantine for ten days. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that with regard to all travel, any child required to quarantine will be able to continue on virtual instruction during the quarantine period.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Grab-n-Go Breakfast and Lunch Program and stated that breakfast will be provided at school for all students in PreK-3. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools will continue to offer the Grab-n-Go lunch program as students return for in-person learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all students may receive free meals regardless of status and parents are able to pick up the Grab-n-Go meals at the nearest location to their home. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the latest information regarding available locations, dates, and times for Grab-n-Go pick up can be found on our district website.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide with an update of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) state assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the United States Department of Education (USDOE) determination regarding New Jersey's requirements to administer 2020-2021 statewide assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) will be cancelled for Spring 2021 and the Start Strong Assessment will be administered in place of NJSLA in Fall 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the USDOE is requiring the NJDOE to administer ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS for ELL, and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide stated that the school districts are required to administer the statewide assessments and explained the chart of the testing window dates for the state assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the ACCESS for ELLs and DLM assessments and who will participate. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the ACCESS for ELLs assessments for grades K-3 English Language Learners (ELLs) who are attending school in-person will be assessed on a school day between May 10, 2021 and June 11, 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades 4-12 who have chosen in-person instruction via the district survey and who have a previous ACCESS for ELLs composite score of 4.0 or higher will be scheduled to come in-person for the ACCESS for ELLs administration. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the in-person ACCESS for ELLs administration for grades 4-5 will be held May 17-21, 2021, grades 6-8 will be held May 24-28, 2021, and for grades 9-12 will be held May 17-21, 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the DLM assessment for grades 3-8 and grade 11 students with disabilities receiving in-person instruction and who have DLM identified as an alternative assessment to NJSLA in their IEP will be assessed on a school day between May 10, 2021 and June 11, 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Start Strong Fall Assessment and stated that the Spring 2021 administration of NJSLA ELA, math, and science assessments is cancelled. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Start Strong assessments will be administered in-person from September 13 – October 22, 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Start Strong assessments will utilize three proficiency levels including strong support may be

needed, some support may be needed, and less support may be needed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the NJDOE will administer the Start Strong assessments in Fall 2021 to all students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the chart of subject areas including English language arts for grades 4-10, math for grades 4-8, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and science for grades 6, 9, and 12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this flexibility is only being offered for the 2020-2021 school year due to the impact of Covid-19.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that concluded the community updates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will be communicating tomorrow and throughout the weekend as we welcome back our PreK through 3rd grade students back to school on Monday.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for the important updates as our children return to school next week.

Mr. Jacobs presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone based on the order of the sign-in. The in-person public comment session will be followed by public comment online to those who have registered with the online participation form prior to this session. I shall also call those individuals to participate based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The time limit will be strictly enforced and audio transmission will be terminated at the end of three minutes. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 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 participation 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.

If the 60 minute public comment period expires before all registered in-person and online participants have been called, remaining participants can email their statements to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org and they will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.”

Mr. Jacobs called upon the first in-person public participant, Danielle Fienberg, to address the Board.

Danielle Fienberg spoke about special education and SEPAC.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next in-person public participant, John Fienberg, to address the Board.

John Fienberg spoke about his child and special education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the first online public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board. Kason Little did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Diana Vivanco, to address the Board. Diana Vivanco did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz spoke about special education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Chris Gallego, to address the Board. Chris Gallego did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Wanda Sosa, to address the Board. Wanda Sosa did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Alexandra Pilco, to address the Board. Alexandra Pilco did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Suzana, to address the Board. Suzana did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Elian Freire, to address the Board. Elian Freire did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Stefany Leon, to address the Board. Stefany Leon did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Claudia Mejicano, to address the Board. Claudia Mejicano did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called upon the next public participant, Fatima Singleton, to address the Board.

Fatima Singleton spoke about concerns with transportation.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Anthony Galindo, to address the Board.

Anthony Galindo spoke about concerns with the reopening of schools.

Mr. Jacobs thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Nikita Clark-Huff.

Nikita Clark-Huff spoke about her problem with a medical accommodation.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Echavarria, to address the Board.

Maria Echavarria spoke against the vaccine.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Angel Jacob, to address the Board.

Angel Jacob, high school junior, stated that the curriculum needs to be updated.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Lou Bani, to address the Board. Lou Bani did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called upon Claudia Mejicano who was now on the online platform.

Claudia Mejicano stated that she had questions about children returning to school.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon Diana Vivanco who was now on the online platform.

Diana Vivanco spoke about the lack of communication.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he did not receive any emails prior to the start of the meeting.

Since there were no other participants for public speaking and no emails received, Mr. Jacobs closed this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is likely that we will have an announcement after our private session as it relates to the future plans for the other grade levels. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that once we have had an opportunity to discuss with our Board the reopening of the phased-in plan, then she will be communicating what the proposed plan is to our community.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he and his colleagues have been on tours of our schools this week. Mr. Jacobs thanked our staff, especially our support staff that has been showing up for work since last July 1st and who are here every day to do their job. Mr. Jacobs stated that our IT Department has been working nonstop repairing laptops and doing everything possible to make sure that our children were taken care of during this pandemic. Mr. Jacobs stated that they have gone above and beyond and worked tirelessly six days a week to keep this district going. Mr. Jacobs stated that we can't say enough about the staff in IT and the staff throughout the district. Mr. Jacobs stated that our custodians have been working hard and he was very pleased to see during the school tours this week the arrows on the floors showing the nice signage. Mr. Jacobs stated that our security guards have been coming to work faithfully and all of our support staff

have been working hard to get our schools ready. Mr. Jacobs stated that he has seen that our schools are ready. Mr. Jacobs stated that there may be a few hiccups as any school that has a chance to open may have. Mr. Jacobs stated that our children are actually going to get the opportunity to go back to school now. Mr. Jacobs stated that even though it is only for two months, some of these children really need it. Mr. Jacobs stated that is why the Superintendent's plan with phased reopening brought back our PreK-3 and also our special needs students. Mr. Jacobs stated that was implemented because that is our most affected population and those are the children that need to come back and interact with our teachers. Mr. Jacobs stated that the reactions that he and his fellow Board members saw this past week was that people were generally happy to get back to work and school. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have to look at this as we have to return to normal someday and now is the time. Mr. Jacobs stated that we see that with the light at the end of the tunnel and we are almost there. Mr. Jacobs stated that our kids are really going to be benefitting from this because they have been suffering from this pandemic. Mr. Jacobs stated that the teaching staff know this firsthand because they have been seeing it on the computer screen. Mr. Jacobs stated that they have been trying to engage our younger children on a computer screen and we know that children at that age really interact better in person. Mr. Jacobs thanked our Superintendent, administrative staff, and support staff because everyone has been working tirelessly to make this happen. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is something that we have been looking forward to for over a year. Mr. Jacobs stated that he was so impressed with the classrooms and how they were decorated and it is such a welcoming environment for them to come back to. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have to remember that these children have never visited these classrooms. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is the first time they are back in school. Mr. Jacobs stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone and his colleagues echo his sentiment of gratitude that we feel that everyone is back and we are about to start school.

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, contracts and legal matters. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to go into private session at 8:41 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 12:05 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Elizabeth community for their patience as the Elizabeth Public School determines its plan for in-person learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in-person learning is best for children to meet their academic, social, and emotional needs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are trying our best to make sure that happens in a safe and effective manner. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that more than 4,500 students will be returning on Monday, April 19th for in-person learning for grades preschool through grade 3. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on April 26th we will bring back grades 4 and 5 and all self-contained special education classes in grades 4-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with regard to grades 4 and 5 we are unable to expand bus transportation for our students at this present time which is due to the CDC requirements for social distancing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have expanded our opportunity based on two factors, the updated CDC guidance allowing our schools to transition from 6 feet to 3 feet of social distancing and also each school's available space and capacity have allowed us to announce this evening the ability to return grades 4 and 5 for in-person learning as well as all of our self-contained special education classes for grades 4 through 12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will be contacting our families as early as next week regarding the status of middle school and high school.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer.

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:

Minutes of the Meetings of March 18 and 25, 2021
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2021
Personnel Report
Supplemental Personnel Report
Tuition Report
Superintendent's Report – Considerations
Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results
Authorizations Report
Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.
Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds
Award of Contracts Report
Supplemental Award of Contracts
Miscellaneous Communication – None
Claims List
Resolution – Kindness Awareness Month
Resolution – National School Nurse Day
Resolution – Asian-Pacific American Month
Resolution – National Teacher Appreciation Week
Resolution – Special Education Week
Resolution – Better Speech and Hearing Month
Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing – Public Relations Firm – Strategic Message Management
Resolution – E.R.E.S.C. Home Instruction Services for School Year 2021-2022
Resolution – Appointing Appco Paper and Plastics Corp. for Cafeteria Paper and Plastic Goods

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:
Authorization Report – One Community One Family Coalition
Award of Contracts Report – Montclair State University
Resolution – Camera and Video Management System
Resolution – Authorizing Entry into Emergency Transportation Contracts
Resolution – Workers’ Compensation Claim (2012-12410) – D.G.
Resolution – Workers’ Compensation Claim (2016-3371) – D.G.

On a motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Mr. Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

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