

APPROVED
Bd Mtg 5-11-2023

BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 19, 2023
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Prior to the start of the regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education, which was held on April 19, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Elmora School No. 12, 638 Magie Ave., Elizabeth, New Jersey, Board Members, Administration, School Staff members and the public audience were treated to performances by students in honor of Autism Acceptance.

“Infinity Sign/I Believe” was performed by Students from the Afterschool Enrichment and Academic Program.

“Not So Different” was performed by Students from the Afterschool Enrichment and Academic Program.

“A Thousand Years” was performed by Pre-K & Kindergarten Students and Staff.

“The World Needs All Kinds of Minds was performed by 7th & 8th Grade after School Enrichment Program and 6th & 7th Grade AVID Students.

“Our Why” was performed by Students, Honorees, Teachers, and Assistants.

The Board thanked the following Elmora School No. 12 Special Education teachers and Assistants for their hard work and dedication:

Kathleen Amy Carlson, Teacher Resource Center
Stephanie M. Cuccio, Teacher Kindergarten Special Education
Nicole A. Johnson, Teacher-Autism
Nicole Matos Rodrigues, Teacher -Resource Center
Fredericka Marilyn Poyotte, Teacher -Autism
Karen Fennell-ESS Special Education Substitute Teacher

Elmora School No. 12 Assistants

Sama Alserreya	Azalia R. Loza
Leidys Asusje	Miriam Mendez
Yanier Barrero	Mariluz Maldonado
Sonia Benavente	Alba R. Pascual
Ramona Carbone	Yaily Santos Peralta
Roszita M. Fields	Elianida Perez
Ruben Francois	Diana Ramirez Montero
Jeffrey Jamar Hall	Juana Rodriguez
Hend Hasson	

The following **STUDENT EXCELLENCE** was recognized by the Board.

Mr. Terry Armstrong, Chairman of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce presented their 2023 Scholarship award to Nathalia Lopez a 12th grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

Board President Iliana Chevres welcomed everyone to the April 19th, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Chevres called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 6:59 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda/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 April 14, 2023. 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 Elmora School No.12 and to our television viewers to the April 19, 2023, 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. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate speaking when talking becomes personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

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 must personally sign in prior 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.”

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres

Absent: Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Neron

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and Attorney Michael Simitz of Kologi Simitz Law Office, Esq., and members of the community were present.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Jerry Jacobs.

The *Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member Stephanie Goncalves Pestana.

Board Member Charlene Dorgely read a proclamation in honor and memory of retired teacher and the namesake of Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30.

Board Member Stephanie Goncalves Pestana read a Resolution in memory of retired teacher Frederick Chesky

Superintendent of Schools, Olga Hugelmeyer, introduced Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy Vice-principal, Mr. Roberto Cerbone, and asked him to present the student representative to the Board.

Mr. Cerbone introduced senior Ms. Jahziah Staraj Denene Carter, who will serve as the student representative to the Board of Education at this evening's meeting. He stated that Ms. Carter serves as Senior Class President at Edison Academy and is ranked number two (2) in her class. In addition, Ms. Carter was elected this year's Homecoming Queen for Edison and will be going to college in the fall, but at this moment where she will be going is a secret, but her college choice will be revealed on May First. Currently Jahziah is enrolled in Commercial Baking and runs her own cupcake company. Moreover, Mr. Markowitz, principal at Edison Academy, sent his regards and wanted it stated that seeing Ms. Carter blossom from a reluctant fifth grader whom he taught to an accomplished and confident student is very gratifying. Mr. Cerbone said Jahziah's true passion is seated in the first row and congratulated Jahziah's mother on having such an outstanding daughter. He also stated that he is sure Jayziah's father is "looking down" with pride.

Mrs. Chevres and Board members congratulated Ms. Carter on being selected as the student representative to the Board for the March meeting and presented her with a pin and a certificate of commemoration. Mrs. Chevres asked Mr. Kennedy to include the student representative in the roll call to have the record reflect Ms. Carter's attendance this evening. This was noted by Mr. Kennedy.

Board President Mrs. Iliana Chevres read the following public participation statement:

"At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have personally signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone 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. The presiding officer may: interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public."

Mrs. Chevres called upon the first public participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Ms. Santos spoke about Special Education.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about Special Education.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Pedro Ennes, to address the Board.

Mr. Ennes spoke about School policy on lateness.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Younira Pyroll, to address the Board.

Ms. Pyroll spoke about School policy on lateness.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for his comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Maria Medeiros, to address the Board.

Mrs. Medeiros spoke about school policies.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for his comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Tashemma Best, to address the Board.

Ms. Best spoke about an incident.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments and asked Assistant Superintendent Cortes to follow up with Ms. Best about her concerns.

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

Board president Mrs. Iliana Chevres asked Student Representative Jahzivah Carter to give her Community Update.

Good evening, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, Madame President, Board of Education commissioners, assistant superintendents, administrators, and members of the community. I am pleased to be here tonight to discuss some of the events going on in our schools.

To begin, the district hosted a college fair for all Juniors at the Dunn Sports Center earlier today. Later this month, Key Club will host their annual blood drive(s) in several schools.

Halsey Academy's MCJROTC received their IG Inspection in which they displayed their hard work and dedication with near perfect scores. We also received a visit from the crew of the USS New Jersey, a Virginia class nuclear submarine currently under construction. Later this month we will host a glow dance and a Physical Fitness competition.

Jefferson Academy hosted a teachers vs students volleyball game along with a painting night. They also hosted a very successful Seussical: The musical with a special guest star Friday evening.

Cicarell Academy held their senior's vs junior's basketball game before spring break and the juniors beat the seniors for the first time.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy held a Women's History month assembly along with a movie night.

Dwyer Academy received visits from the sheriff's department where they displayed crime scenes presentations. They also hosted volleyball and basketball games, along with an unplugged day.

Edison Academy hosted a basketball game.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak about our student body.

Mrs. Chevres thanked Ms. Carter for her report and reiterated her and the Board's commitment to working with students to address their concerns and listen to their ideas to improve our school district.

Board President Iliana Chevres then asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present her report to the community.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer shared the results from the 2022 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Profiles.

2022 Accountability Profiles indicators required under ESSA:

Academic Achievement- Proficiency on NJSLA/DLM – ELA and Mathematics

Academic Progress – Grades 3 to 8 only

Graduation Rate – High School only

Progress Toward Achieving English Language Proficiency (ELP)- Performance on ACCESS for ELLs

School Quality or Student Success – Chronic Absenteeism.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer then presented and discussed a series of charts with the NJDOE ESSA Accountability Profile including:

- Academic Achievement Participation Rate
- Academic Achievement Proficiency Rate
- Academic Progress
- School Quality Chronic Absenteeism

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented an overview of the 2021-2022 School Performance Report. The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education. Communities are encouraged to use these reports to learn more, start conversations and engage. In addition to meeting the federal report requirements under ESSA, NJDOE is committed to developing reports that provide stakeholders with a broader picture of their schools and districts. Along with the detailed School Performance Reports for each school, district, and state, Summary Reports for each school and district are also available. Please note this same information is also available in Spanish. The School Performance Reports are available at njschooldata.org. A Link is also provided on the EPSNJ.org website – Go to Students and Families tab–New Jersey School Performance Reports – District Reports.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2021-2022 reports include nearly all data that was previously reported prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, such as assessment results and accountability data. However, the 2021-2022 reports will not include student growth data as measured by median student growth percentiles (mSGPs). SGP's were not calculated for the 2021-2022 school year due to lack of prior year test results for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. The student

growth section of the reports will include a link to an alternate measure of academic progress that was used for accountability determinations for the 2021-2022 school year. However, the NJDOE plans to resume reporting mGSPs for the 2022-2023 school year. As data over the last three years was impacted by the pandemic in various ways, the NJDOE recommends caution in comparing data year over year.

The New Jersey School Performance Reports contains hundreds of data points about schools and districts across New Jersey including:

- School and District Overviews
- Demographic Information
- Student Growth
- Academic Achievement
- College and career readiness
- Graduation and post-secondary information
- School climate and environment
- Staff Information
- School Accountability
- School and district narrative Information

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented and discussed several slides, covering major categories within the New Jersey School Performance Reports as listed below:

- Student Enrollment and Demographics
- Local Assessment Results
- State Graduation Rates
- Federal Graduation Rates
- Graduation Pathways
- Chronic Absenteeism
- District Teacher Demographic Information
- College and Career readiness
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Student Safety in the District
- Early Childhood Education in the District
- Student Support and Services
- Post Secondary Enrollment

The Superintendent also reported that Seven (7) Schools were in “status” based on 2021/2022 data. She further spoke about the definition/differences between Comprehensive or Targeted Support and how they apply to schools in status.

Mrs. Chevres asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Community Reports.

Mr. Rivera said he wanted to go on record that we should never underestimate the value of industry transferable skills. There are many job situations that are willing to hire 18-year-olds without degrees for high paying positions with specific skill sets.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for the detailed report and wanted to thank everyone who helped achieve the fantastic results these reports show. She wanted the community to understand that ESSA stands for Every Student Achieves Act and that in a district of 29,000+ students to have so many “green indicators” and very few “red indicators” shows that the Elizabeth Schools are doing a very good job. We need to celebrate these results in a big way.

Regarding the Federal testing data, that despite the impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic Elizabeth’s graduation rates went up. In addition, the community should be aware that 100% of the Seniors in the District across all High Schools took the SAT – which is not the norm throughout the state and nation. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega further stated that almost 50% of our high school students are enrolled in AP classes versus a statewide percentage of 38 percent. Again, achievements that we should be celebrated.

Mr. Jacobs addressed some questions to Superintendent Hugelmeyer concerning Chronic Absenteeism and how it is measured locally and by the New Jersey Dept. of Education. The state uses a threshold of 10% of the 180 days i.e., 18 days, mandated that schools be open to classify a student as chronically absent. However, in Elizabeth we follow protocols and procedures established by Mrs. Hugelmeyer’s predecessor, whereby a student who is out 9 days, which is the equivalent of 5% of the school year, is considered chronically absent. It was the feeling of the Superintendent that students who miss more than nine days are at the risk of falling seriously behind in course work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer believes that having students in school helps them graduate on time. Mr. Jacobs also asked that the Board/Superintendent look at our tardiness policies which were mentioned during the Public Comment section of the meeting. Many students face time challenges as they get ready for school, while at the same time assisting their families with childcare and other duties. In addition, Mr. Jacobs questioned whether schools that are in “Status” which have subgroups that scored very low, qualify for additional funding/services assistance so they can emerge from this category. The Superintendent replied that these schools are in fact eligible for Federal Funds. She cited examples such as Social Workers being assigned to schools and other remedial programs that are offered which came about because of federal funding.

Mrs. Barbosa spoke about the continuing celebrations marking Autism Acceptance month. On Saturday April 22nd at Mattanno Park a city-wide celebration of Autism Acceptance would take place and all were welcomed to attend this event. She asked families to review the calendar of events that the Autism team has put together. For those who find it difficult to get out of the house there are activities listed that can be done at home such as songs and games that reinforce speech therapy and other skills. Mrs. Barbosa thanked all those involved in teaching our special children and making activities such as the swimming program available. A special

thank you to Special Services, the Administration and all our teachers for making April a great month.

Board President Iliana Chevres requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of the following matters: Workers Compensation Matters specifically – D.Z. Legal Matters, specifically, Settlement Agreement -V.L.W., Board Self Evaluation, and Confirmation of Residency Appeals. Personnel Matters specifically Hiring Strategies, Revised Job Description, Award of Contacts, specifically School Design and Lease Agreement.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mrs. Dorgerly to go into private session at 7:52 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Jacobs to return to public session at 11:04 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: none

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana left the meeting at 11:05 p.m.

Mrs. Chevres amended the Private Session Statement to include discussion of Worker's Compensation claim, specifically H.B.

The following items were added to the agenda.

Workers Compensation Settlement – D.Z.

Workers Compensation Settlement – H.B.

Settlement Wage & Labor Agreement – V.L.W.

Approval of Changes to Board Self Evaluation

Approval of Decisions made by Executive Committee-confirmation of residency investigation results.

Approval of Job Description – Administrative Aide

Approval of Lease between the District and Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary/ St. Michael Church.

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.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Hugelmeyer's remarks Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked that an analysis be given of Field Trips this year vs. prior years as well as the protocols necessary to request a field trip.

Mrs. Chevres asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (March 15, 30, 2023)

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (February 28, 2023)

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuitions Report

Supplemental Tuitions Report

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Finance And Accounting Report

Supplemental Finance And Accounting Report

Award Of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award Of Contracts Report

Claims List

RESOLUTIONS:

Kindness Awareness Month

National School Nurses Day

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

National Teacher Appreciation Week

Special Education Week

Better Speech and Hearing Month

Bilingual/Multicultural Month

U.C.E.S.C. Coordinated Transportation Services

Designation of Depository for School Funds

Approving Addendum to Extended Agreement Between BOE & ESS Northeast, LLC

Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Acceptance and Approval of Corrective Action Plan

Payment of Unused Sick Days

Payment of Unused Vacation Days

Appointing HP, Inc. for 150 Mini Desktop HP Computers

Appointing HP, Inc. for 150 Desktop Computers
Bus Evacuation Drills
Appointing ACE Endico, Inc. – Delivery of Frozen, Fresh, Dry Grocery Snacks, etc.
Appointing ACE Endico, Inc. – Purchase of Processed Commodity Food Items
Chessie Dentley Roberts Remembrance
Frederick Chesky Remembrance
Appointing PC University Distributors, Inc. – eGlass Stations.
Appointing Zenith Construction Services – Baseball Field Improvements
Workers’ Comp Settlement – D.Z.
Workers’ Comp Settlement – H.B.
Settlement Agreement – V.L.W.
Approval of Changes to Elizabeth Board Self Evaluation 2022-2023
Approving Decisions of Executive Board
Approval of Job Description – Administrative Aide
Approval of Lease Agreement -Most Holy Rosary/St. Michael Church

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa (abstain Section7 Award of Contracts Pg1-Valenca Restaurant, Pg 3 – Valenca Restaurant), Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -6

Negative: none

Mrs. Chevres asked if any Board members have questions or comments. Being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Mrs. Dorgerly, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the meeting was adjourned at 11.14 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -6

Negative: none

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