

APPROVED

Bd. Mtg. 5-9-19

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

April 8, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order immediately following the agenda meeting on April 8, 2019 in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves presented the following statement at 12:06 a.m. since the agenda meeting was held prior to the business meeting.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular business meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on April 2, 2019. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion may sign in up to the start of the public speaking so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

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

Absent: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Chevres – 2

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

Board President Stephanie Goncalves presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be

strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

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

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent’s decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying for the period starting July 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in July 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, Chapter 122. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in accordance with this law, all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a “Week of Respect” and during the Week of Respect, school districts are expected to organize activities, including but not limited to, age-appropriate instructions and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution was put before the board in September declaring the week of October 1-5, 2018 as the Week of Respect and each of our schools planned appropriate activities for this week. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, two times each year between September 1 and December 31 and between January 1 and June 30, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the chief school administrator will report to the board of education and the public any acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the reporting period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 there were 157 HIB investigations conducted by appropriate school staff. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that of those cases investigated 34 were confirmed cases of HIB. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the anti-bullying specialists, anti-bullying alternates, and anti-bullying coordinator conducted these investigations including Nafeesa Freeman, Melanie Padilla, Ada Flores, Kristen Kelly, Dinorah Mejia, Andreia Giuca, Guadalupe Ferreiro, Yvonne Brown, Christine Rappa, Daniela Damiani, Chanise Hurst, Christine Flaherty, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Jasmine Lee, Maria Brito, Kelvin Reese, Jennifer Hernandez, Tanya Santucci, Jessica Sofranko, Fabi Ramos, Shayra Bustamante, Maria Cabrera, Melvin Luciano, Antonio Sapio, Lourdes Soto, Kerry O’Connor, Lauren Delgado, Kenyetta Jackson, Katherine Amato, Melissa Zappia, Colleen Reynolds, Theresa Zucosky, Aleina Murray, Jessica Trujillo, Wilma Helm, Maria, Vindas, Mary Pat Lavecchia, Steven Zografos, Erica Forbes, Heidi Guillaume, Stephanie Gardner, Norma Cordona, Veronica Vega, Lisa Baginski-Matlosz, Linda Lewis, Ishmael Medley, Safiyyah Howell, Heather Ford, and Peter Vosseler.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 7 incidents based on race/national origin, 4 incidents based on color, 0 incidents based on religion, 1 incident based on ancestry, 6 incidents based on gender, 2 incidents based on sexual orientation, 0 incidents based on gender identity or expression, 6 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 23 incidents based on other targeted bases. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 0 incidents involved a gesture, 0 incidents involved a written communication, 128 incidents that were verbal, 78 incidents were physical and 13 incidents involved an electronic communication. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 39 out of school suspensions, 36 in school detentions, and 19 other disciplinary actions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additional services such as in-school counseling, skill development, classroom lessons, referral for outside treatment resources, parent conferences, and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 the district provided appropriate HIB training to school counselors and social workers and to new staff and support staff in the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additionally, the district provided extensive and specified training to the anti-bullying coordinator and to all anti-bullying specialists and their alternates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that non-certificated staff also received training. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new school level administrators and new HIB staff received training in the HIBster reporting program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked if anyone would like to comment. Since there were no public comments, Mrs. Hugelmeyer closed the public hearing.

The second reading of the following new policy was done:

File Code 2225 Policy Equity

Miss Goncalves asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the Meetings of March 7 and 19, 2019 (Agenda and Business)
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2019
Personnel Report
Tuition Report
Superintendent's Report – Considerations
Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Superintendent's Report – Field Trips
Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results
Authorizations Report
Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers
Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds
Award of Contracts Report
Miscellaneous Communication - None
Claims List
Resolution – Kindness Awareness Month
Resolution – National School Nurse Day
Resolution – Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
Resolution – National Teacher Appreciation Week
Resolution – Special Education Week
Resolution – Holocaust Remembrance Day
Resolution – Better Speech and Hearing Month
Resolution – Bilingual Multicultural Education Week
Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver
Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission 2019-2020 Coordinated
Transportation Services
Resolution – Acceptance of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Approval of Corrective
Action Plan
Resolution – Gloucester County Special Services 2019-2020 Cooperative Transportation Agreement
Resolution – Maximum Travel Expenditures 2019-2020
Resolution – Residency Investigative Results
Resolution – Contract for Professional Services – Education Law Center
Resolution – Equity Policy File Code No. 2225
Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Resolution – Payment of Unused Sick Days
Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Authorizing Execution of New Deed Notice – Edison Academy
Resolution – Educational Services Commission of NJ 2019-2020 Coordinated Transportation Services
Resolution – Appointing Nardone Brothers Bakery and Approving Form of Contract
Resolution – Appointing Seashore Fruit and Produce Co., Inc.
Resolution – Appointing Institute for Multi-Sensory Education for Orton-Gillingham Training
Resolution – Approving Acquisition of Three Vehicles and Authorizing Entry into a Five Year
Lease/Purchase Agreement with US Bankcorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc.
Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Special Services – Nancy Morales-Frigoletto
Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Career and Technical Education – Crystal Ahearn
Resolution – Gladstone Wealth Advisory Services for Employee 403(b) subject to attorney review

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, that the above be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – N.A.; Superintendent’s Report – Considerations – G.D.), Hernandez (abstain- Authorizations Report – County of Union), Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (abstain- Authorizations Report – Prevention Links, Sister School Cooperation Program, Law Day Celebration; Award of Contracts Report – Juniors Venture t/a The Lizard Guy; Omar Cachimbo, Prevention Links, Applied Educational Systems, Inc.), Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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