

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 12, 2015
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Ana Maria Amin presented the following statement at 7:45 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Friday, May 8, 2015. 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.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to our television viewers to this May 12, 2015 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. I also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, I may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. 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 sign in one hour prior to the advertised 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. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo (arr. 8:00 p.m.), Mrs. Amin – 8

Absent: Ms. Bathelus –1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenno, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Dr. William Greene gave the invocation.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by eighth grade student Jessica Quinte, and seventh grade students Bruna DeSouza, Gabriela Duran, and Valeria Morales from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by eighth grade student Jessica Quinte, and seventh grade students Bruna DeSouza, Gabriela Duran, and Valeria Morales from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

Mrs. Amin introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Amin introduced kindergarten students from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 who performed a dance to *Mambo No. 8* by Perez Prado. Mrs. Amin thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Perreira recognized Adáo Pinto, Consul General of the Republic of Angola, for his commitment, dedication and contribution to excellence in education as a means to foster economic and financial growth for Angolans working to achieve the American dream this country has to offer.

The National Anthem of Angola was played.

Mr. Perreira introduced Adáo Pinto, Consulate of Angola, and thanked him for his work and the wonderful partnership between Angola and the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Perreira and Board members presented a plaque of commemoration to Adáo Pinto.

Mr. Perreira also thanked Dr. Joao Camacho for making this possible. Mr. Perreira stated that Dr. Camacho is always looking for ways to enrich our school system and making us known around the world.

Consulate of Angola Adáo Pinto thanked the Board for the honor and stated that when we are invited to say something at an institution like this we cannot forget the word education. Mr. Pinto stated that the word education comes from the Latin word, *educatus*, which means help somebody grow. Mr. Pinto stated that he is here to grow and he is here to learn like those children learned to dance. Mr. Pinto stated that as Consul General he hopes to set up a relationship with this institution through cooperation.

Mr. Monteiro recognized all in attendance of Portuguese descent and stated that in the next month the Portuguese community will be celebrating Portugal Day Festivities here in Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro introduced community leaders including Grand Marshall of the Parade Leonel Cardoso, President of the Portugal Day Festivities Carla Rodriguez, Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados, former Board President Armando DaSilva, EEA Vice President and Past Grand Marshall Joseph Cortico, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, teachers, staff members, and everyone of Portuguese descent. Mr. Monteiro recognized the Founder of the Portugal Day Parade that started many, many years ago in the City of Elizabeth by a young man who wrote a letter to then Mayor Tom Dunn and started the process of having a parade here in the City of Elizabeth recognizing all the sacrifices and contributions of the Portuguese community and introduced Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves.

The National Anthem of Portugal was played.

Mr. Monteiro stated that it is all of the hard work, time and dedication of the volunteers who sacrifice so much time that goes into making the Portugal Day a reality. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is one of the largest parades and most magnificent parades the City of Elizabeth has. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Portugal Day Parade is being held on Sunday, June 7th at 2:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

President of the Portugal Day Festivities Carla Rodriguez thanked the Board of Education for recognizing the Portuguese culture and their traditions and hopes to see everyone on June 7th on Elizabeth Avenue as we show you our culture and traditions through our parade and festivities.

Carla Rodriguez thanked Maria Carvalho, who is one of us, and the Board of Education for their dedication to the kids and the community.

Resolution – Portugal Day

Mr. Monteiro read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo thanked the students and staff from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 for being here and performing tonight.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the Cubans who are left here in the City of Elizabeth and at one time they were many in numbers but now they are dwindling have a great opportunity to celebrate our culture as well. Mr. Trujillo stated that we do have our parade to celebrate our independence and putting together a parade is a lot of work and it takes some really dedicated people. Mr. Trujillo stated that people from throughout the State come and visit and celebrate with us. Mr. Trujillo introduced a few people who are responsible for the parade and deserve recognition including Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto, Coordinator of Security Gonzalo Quesada, Chief Information Officer of Technology Alberto Marsal, and Assistant Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Milanes. Mr. Trujillo stated that this year the Grand Marshall of the Cuban Day Parade is our Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeier.

Mr. Couto invited everyone to come and celebrate with them. Mr. Couto stated that the parade is from the Civic Club, the old Cuban Club, to City Hall where they will have a ceremony. Mr. Couto stated that after that there is a party at the Civic Club and invited everyone to come and celebrate.

Mr. Trujillo stated that Cuban Independence Day is May 20, 2015 and read a resolution in recognition of the Cuban community. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Cuban Day Parade is being held on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. beginning at Union Square marching up Elizabeth Avenue to Winfield Scott Park and invited everyone to attend.

The National Anthem of Cuba was played.

Mr. Neron stated that we are honoring the Haitian community as we celebrate Haitian Heritage Month. Mr. Neron stated that Board member Charlene Bathelus, who could not be with us this evening, is the 2015 Grand Marshall of the statewide Haitian Flag Day Parade. Mr. Neron introduced Bithja Lerine, representative of the New Jersey Haitian Flag Day Planning Committee and the members of the committee present including Woody Phillipe and Martel Garvil. Mr. Neron recognized all in attendance of Haitian descent including Vice Principal Wilnes Jilus, Vice Principal Donald Dulorie, and members of Jefferson Park Ministries which was founded by Catherine Santillien. Mr. Neron invited James Carey to come forward for all the work he has done for Haiti and the Haitian community. Mr. Neron read a resolution in recognition of the Haitian community.

Ms. Bithja Lerine, representative of the Haitian Flag Day Planning Committee, thanked the Board of Education for recognizing the Haitian people in this great City and thanked the committee members for all their hard work. Ms. Lerine thanked the people of the City of Elizabeth for welcoming the Haitian people and letting us live among you. Ms. Lerine invited everyone to the Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The National Anthem of Haiti was played.

Mr. Perreira stated that Elizabeth is truly a melting pot with many nations calling Elizabeth home and there are many more countries that we haven't recognized tonight that also call Elizabeth and the United States home. Mr. Perreira stated that it is good for our children to be able to witness this and learn from all these different cultures every day.

Mr. Perreira stated that every year students from the Elizabeth Public Schools are nominated to be recognized by the State Board of Education for their outstanding contributions to their school, community, or family. Mr. Perreira recognized Janiyah Fullwood, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, who was selected as the recipient of the 2015 State Board Student Recognition. Mr. Perreira recognized the nominees including Adely Guevara, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; Tonya Dudley, Angie Gil, Jonathan Mera, Luna Santi, Derick Vanegas, and Erika Wilson, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Geraldyn Caceda, Carolina Herrera, Tyan Lewis, and Polliana Pereira, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Maya Cardenas, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; Sabino Alejo, Jayden Alexis, Anthony Barragan, Khalid Bashir, Daniel Castaneda, Jose Encarnacion, Nathalie Hernandez, Melanie Jackson, Cristina Lourenco, Alexia Pereyra, Elisha Perez, Daniel Reis, Elvin Rodriguez, and Aida Sevillano, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; and Stephanie Medeiros and Jaroy Richardson, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized City Council President Patricia Perkins-Augusta, City Councilman Carlos Torres, former Board member Carole Cascio, and Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados who were in attendance.

Mr. Neron stated that every year students from the Elizabeth Public Schools are nominated to be recognized by the Union County School Boards Association for their outstanding contributions to their school, community, or family. Mr. Neron recognized Alessandra Reyna, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, who was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Union County School Boards Association Recognition. Mr. Neron recognized the nominees including Bryan Soto, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; Hector Meneses, Elizabeth High School; Latifa Ali, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy; Jean Cabral-Espinal, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; and Daysi Valido, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that every year the Union County Bar Association holds a contest for students to commemorate Law Day and the creation of the Magna Carta, which is the cornerstone document upon which democracy is built and which established the principal of rule of law. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized the students from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 selected as the winners of the 2015 Union County Law Day Magna Carta Contest including Poetry/Spoken Word/Rap Contest 2nd place Jessica Quinte, eighth grade, and 3rd place Valeria Morales, seventh grade; Poetry Contest 3rd place Brana DeSouza and Gabriela Duran, seventh grade students, and teacher Ms. Tracy Sereday for working with the students in preparing for the competition. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated the students and teacher and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the kindergarten students for their performance tonight.

Mr. Rodriguez recognized Ms. Miranda Hanafy, fifth grade teacher at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 who has been invited by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to attend Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers Conference in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the conference serves to promote

collaboration, creativity, and excellence through the recognition, selection, and participation of outstanding educators in seminars, conferences and continuing education opportunities. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated Ms. Miranda Hanafy and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized the school nurses for their quality of care, compassion, and commitment in their practice and professionalism. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that they are the ones who take care of our children if they don't feel well or need to take medication and they make sure the children have all the requirements to attend school. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that they would like to recognize all of the school nurses and introduced those present including school nurses Alicia Aleman, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education; Madeline Kelly, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education; Ruth Perez, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, and Nanette Sayani, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated the school nurses and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized the following team members for their dedication and contribution to excellence to the Elizabeth Public Schools for over 40 years of service including Rebecca Aiello, Elizabeth High School; Nanette Conte-Markowitz, Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; Mary Fodera, Bilingual/ESL Division; Marcy Fox, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy; Nancy Kenely, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Rita Peskus, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30; Charles Saunders, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy; Maria Volikas, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; and Eileen Walsh, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Monteiro stated that Rita Peskus, Maria Volikas, and Eileen Walsh are retiring this year and congratulated them.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that the best way in which to acknowledge our teachers and to thank them was first by beginning with our educators who have dedicated so many years to educating the children of the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she has such fond memories of having either worked with them or having learned from them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked each teacher individually and stated that she worked with Mrs. Aiello with the Disaffected Youth Grant many years ago; she had the pleasure of learning a great deal from Mrs. Conte-Markowitz who provides a tremendous service to our children at George Washington School No. 1; she currently works with Mrs. Fodera who is a bilingual instructional coach at central office; she had the pleasure of learning a great deal from Mrs. Fox who continues to provide our children with valuable experiences; she taught with Mrs. Kenely at Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 where tremendous best practices were shared; she learned a great deal from Ms. Peskus who was a former science teacher trainer and trained all of our teachers on the FOSS instructional program; the tremendous impact that Mr. Saunders has on all of us and thanked him for everything that he has given to our children and our teachers; she taught with Mrs. Volikas at Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 who introduced her to the Whole School Reform Success for All Model; and she learned a great deal from Mrs. Walsh who has touched the lives of so many children and so many of our teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked them for what they have given, for their legacy, and for what they continue to give each and every day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is an honor to have such dedicated teachers in the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer, Mr. Monteiro, and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that in January our Board President approached her and her staff and expressed wanting to ensure that we design the appropriate criteria to be able to recognize our parents and the important work that the parents do in our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through a collaborative process we designed the Most Valuable Parents (MVP) Award. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this month we are publicly honoring Elizabeth Public Schools' Most Valuable Parents (MVPs) whose actions, including contributions to the school community, symbolize the finest traditions of parenting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated our guidance counselors provide a tremendous impact in helping children

achieve school success and plan for a career but they cannot do this alone. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is a partnership with our counselors and social workers working collaboratively with our parents.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as a result of our Board President in coordination with our guidance counselors we are proud to make the announcement of this prestigious recognition to highlight the effort of our successful parents. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the nomination criteria includes that the individual must be a parent, natural, adoptive, foster, guardian, or step-parent and their child has to have demonstrated progress in their performance; students must demonstrate 95% attendance rate (with the exception of unexcused absences); parents/guardians are active members of the PTA/PTO; parents/guardians attend Parent Teacher Conferences; parents/guardians attend District Information Sessions, for example Parent Academy, Parent Seminars, College Fair; and parents/guardians volunteer/participate in school events such as Read Across America, fundraisers, serve as chaperones, etc. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents selected would have to meet four of the six criteria items.

Mrs. Amin stated that the Most Valuable Parent Award for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy is presented to Gregory Markowitz and Nanette Conte-Markowitz, and David Rubens and Jeri Goodman. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Neron stated that the Most Valuable Parent Award for Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy is presented to Cassia DaSilva, and Maria Valencia. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Neron stated that the Most Valuable Parent Award for John E. Dwyer Technology Academy is presented to Natalie Edmund, Koryne Warren, and David and Eliana Chaparro. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Amin stated that the Most Valuable Parent Award for Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Leadership Academy is Crissy Lockhart, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Downey. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez recognized former Board member Oneida Duran who was in attendance.

Mr. Neron excused himself from the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Board President Amin 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 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.”

Mrs. Carvalho excused herself from the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mrs. Amin called upon the first public participant, Camilo Victoria, to address the Board.

Camilo Victoria, 19 Elmora Avenue, spoke about the budget.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Stephanie Goncalves, to address the Board.

Mrs. Carvalho and Mr. Neron returned to the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Stephanie Goncalves, 202 Marshall Street, spoke about the fines from the USDA.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Maria DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria DaRassi, 336 Franklin Street, spoke about the budget.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Wally Miranda, to address the Board.

Wally Miranda, 241 Marshall Street, congratulated the Board on the two high schools named top in the nation by U.S. News.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Debra Kosiarski, to address the Board.

Debra Kosiarski, 224 Mellon Place, spoke about special education field trips and the budget for special education aides.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer requested Ms. Kosiarski to give her contact information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, spoke about school trips, budget, substitute staffing service, and legal fees.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Wendy Reina, to address the Board.

Wendy Reina, 189 Keats Avenue, spoke about special education.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special education and substitute staffing services.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Danette Torres, to address the Board.

Danette Torres, 539 Grier Avenue, spoke about special education.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, James Carey, to address the Board.

James Carey, 212 Inslee Place, made comments about the attorneys for the Board.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Laura Rico, to address the Board.

Laura Rico, resident, spoke about special education.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Joseph Cortico, to address the Board.

Joseph Cortico, Elizabeth Education Association Vice President, stated that former Board President Francisco Gonzalez has been chosen and voted to be awarded with the Edward Carey Award for community service on May 28th at the EEA Retirement Dinner and invited all Board members to attend. Mr. Cortico stated that he attended a City Hall meeting two weeks ago and if anyone gets out of hand there they are asked to be removed from the meeting.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Amin declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Resolution – Adoption of the 2015-2016 School Year Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she will be voting no. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she cannot support a resolution that does not cut attorney fees, that continues to use Source4Teachers, and that is cutting back on our police. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she would like to see additional line items in this new year and she would also like a plan to fix our older schools that don't have air conditioning, that need plumbing work, that need bathrooms, and that need just day to day care. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she was not a part of creating this and cannot vote yes for it.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that just for clarification we are not reducing any of the services provided by our Elizabeth Police.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we are not cutting back on any police services.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that is correct that we are not cutting back on the police services.

Mr. Rodriguez asked when it changed.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there is no reduction for the services for the Elizabeth Police Department in the budget. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is noted in the binder.

Mrs. Amin stated that she wanted to say a few words about the budget. Mrs. Amin stated that the process of putting together a budget for a school district is not one that is taken lightly, especially when that process impacts the lives of so many people and the ability to carry out our responsibility of educating our children. Mrs. Amin stated that our Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer and her team of administrators have spent countless hours, many times until the wee hours of the morning, making calculations, reviewing department expenditures, and the level of service required to meet the demands and challenges of all of our present students and the projected increase in enrollment. Mrs. Amin stated that in the last few years this district has suffered through a combined zero increase in state and federal aid while experiencing a student body growth of approximately 1,000 students per year. Mrs. Amin stated that this requires an increase in teachers to meet the instructional demands and needs and increases in costs to meet the state and federal obligations of the district. Mrs. Amin stated that this combination of opposing forces was met with fiscally prudent and responsible decisions that resulted in reducing the Elizabeth Public Schools' expenditures by \$38 million for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Amin stated that these same prudent and responsible decisions led to increasing the percentage of

dollars going to instruction from 77% to 79% while decreasing our operational costs from 19% to 17%. Mrs. Amin stated that these numbers reflect a concerted effort by the Superintendent and this Board to consider the fiscal impact of these decisions on educators, support staff, students, and taxpayers. Mrs. Amin stated that in comparison to the City of Elizabeth's budget where the tax levy has increased 18 times in the last 18 years, the Elizabeth Public Schools levy has increased only 5 times in those same 18 years. Mrs. Amin stated that while these 5 increases has led the Elizabeth Public Schools' tax levy to increase by 56%, those increases by the City of Elizabeth has led to a 265% increase. Mrs. Amin stated that considering these challenging and difficult decisions it is disingenuous, at best, and a political ploy at worst, for any elected official whether part of this Board or of the City of Elizabeth to criticize this budget we are here to vote on. Mrs. Amin reminded her colleagues on this Board that they were elected and took a sworn oath to guide the Elizabeth Public Schools to provide the best education possible for the children of Elizabeth and upholding that oath includes being fiscally prudent and responsible to the educators, support staff, students, and taxpayers of Elizabeth. Mrs. Amin stated that this budget accomplishes that. Mrs. Amin thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer, Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Greene, and the entire administrative team that worked so diligently on this budget.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 5

Negative: Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the minutes of the meetings of March 30 and April 16, 2015 be accepted.

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez asked if we could make sure that the February minutes that we did approve are online.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

The Board President called for a ten minute recess.

The vote to have a ten minute recess was as follows:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Mrs. Amin – 6

Negative: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

The Board went into recess at 10:04 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public session at 10:18 p.m.

Roll Call after recess:

Present: Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Absent: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- A.D., M.G., H.K.), Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 7

Abstain: Mr. Perreira – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the retirees and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.

Mr. Neron recognized some of the great losses of the district including AnaMaria Castainca, Va'Nechia Simmons, and Susan Villarino and called for a moment of silence.

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved.

Mr. Trujillo stated that if he may suggest to Educational Management Chairperson Stanley Neron that we take up in committee and discuss the questions that were brought up tonight about the field trips and make sure that no classroom goes without the opportunity of getting a class trip if that is the case. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know if that is the case but we can discuss it in committee and discuss how we can better handle that so it doesn't happen.

Mr. Neron stated that is fine. Mr. Neron stated that he would like to schedule Education Management meetings so we can move on a number of issues.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the field trips.

Mr. Trujillo stated that his concern was the parent's allegations that due to not having a permanent teacher there was a lack of planning. Mr. Trujillo stated that could be a possibility and we are a large district and sometimes find ourselves with a substitute covering a class and that would bring a burden to the children if they were not part of the planning. Mr. Trujillo stated that the other concern was a lack of chaperones which he thinks is a parent problem and we have to do a better job of perhaps of finding a way to recruit within the schools to have chaperones. Mr. Trujillo stated that it shouldn't be a reason to cancel a class trip because no one is going to take the time out of their day to go to a zoo or museum with the children. Mr. Trujillo stated that if that happened it is very sad and we can discuss this in committee and find a solution as to how to address that.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Authorizations Report – Calendars for the 2015-2016 School Year, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter Partnership, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Amin – 8

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (abstain- DMR Architects; O'Donnell Agency, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Tener, Jeffrey B.; USA Architects; Zausner, Barbara), Neron (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (abstain- DMR Architects; O'Donnell Agency, LLC; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Tener, Jeffrey B.; USA Architects; Zausner, Barbara), Neron (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission 2015-2016 Special Education Tuition Contract Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Tuition Contract Agreement 2015-2020 Alternative High School

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

The second reading of the following new and revised policies, exhibits, and bylaw was done:

1330	Exhibit	Use of Facilities
4115	Policy	Supervision
4123	Policy	Classroom Assistants (Paraprofessionals)
4222	Policy	Non-Instructional Aides
5141.21	Policy	Administering Medication
5141.21	Exhibit	Administration of Medication
5141.21	Exhibit	Medication Administration Order/Permission Form
5141.21	Exhibit	Self-Medication Permission Form
6145.1/6145.2	Policy	Intramural Competition/Interscholastic Competition
9271.1	Bylaw	Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks and Other Forms of Electronic Communication

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Monteiro, to table Bylaw 9271.1 Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks and Other Forms of Electronic Communication.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – New and Revised Policies and Exhibits (excluding Bylaw 9271.1)

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we amended the Use of Facilities Exhibit 1330 especially the last sentence. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this was a few years in the making and commended his fellow Board members. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it was mostly our soccer fields that were left sometimes in disarray and commended his fellow colleagues on working together to put that last piece in where we can go after certain entities if they damage our fields or our schools above and beyond normal wear and tear. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he appreciates it and that at times it seems like we are at odds for many things but we all do have what we at least personally think what is best in mind.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Amended Tuition Contract Agreement for 2014-2015 Alternative High School

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Environmental Safety Program for the 2015-2016 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Monteiro, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

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, specifically, A.V., K.E., D.L., Y.Q., K.V., E.H., and R.C.; reorganization/revised job descriptions, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results and Workers' Compensation Claim, specifically J.B. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to go into private session at 10:43 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

The Board reconvened in public at 12:18 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Mrs. Amin amended the private session statement to include discussion of a Board meeting incident.

Resolution – Authorization for Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2011-14) – J.B.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Investigative Results

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – Y.Q.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – D.L.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – K.E.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – A.V.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – K.V.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – R.C.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Descriptions

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Amin asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was not any old business to discuss, Mrs. Amin asked if there was any new business to discuss.

On a motion by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

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