

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

June 26, 2021
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on June 26, 2021 at 8:15 a.m., in the Multipurpose Room at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, 505-517 Morris Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Jerry Jacobs presented the following statement at 8:44 a.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. This is a special 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 June 22, 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.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present to this June 26, 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. 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 morning 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 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.”

Present: Diane Barbosa, Charlene Bathelus, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Stanley Neron (arr. 8:45 a.m. via online platform), Jerry Jacobs – 7
Absent: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Stephanie Pestana – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., and Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP were in attendance. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Board President Jerry Jacobs 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 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 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, Mr. Jacobs closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Jacobs welcomed everyone and stated that it has been a long time since our last retreat in February 2020. Mr. Jacobs stated that the retreat is to help our Board and to help us become better Board members to serve our community.

Mr. Jacobs introduced Consultant Dr. Adrienne Bailey who will be facilitating our governance retreat.

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. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 8:52 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa excused herself from the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to reconvene in public session at 1:07 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron (via online platform), Jacobs – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Adoption of 2021-2022 Board Goals

Resolution – Adoption of 2021-2022 Superintendent Goals

Mr. Jacobs asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda:
Award of Contracts Report
Resolution – Adoption of 2021-2022 Board Goals
Resolution – Adoption of 2021-2022 Superintendent Goals

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 6

Negative: None

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer spoke about the Delta variant coronavirus and the impact it may have on the community and education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Dr. Bailey for facilitating this retreat and thanked his colleagues and administrators for their work today.

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 6

Negative: None

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