

APPROVED
Bd. Mtg. 8-16-12

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

July 19, 2012
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on July 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi Purpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Fernando Nazco presented the following statement at 7:40 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 Thursday, July 12, 2012. 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 July 19, 2012 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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo,
Nazco – 7

Absent: Mr. Gonzalez, Mrs. Munn – 2

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Board Attorney Kirk Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Labor Attorney Karen Murray and members of the public were in attendance.

Dr. William Greene gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
The National Anthem of Colombia was played.
Pledge of Ethics
Core Beliefs and Commitments Video

Mr. Nazco introduced students Laura Gomez and Fabio Oliver from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy who performed *La Enganada* dance for the commemoration of the Colombian Independence Day. Mr. Nazco thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mr. Nazco recognized two students who won prestigious awards, Natalia Rincon, graduate of William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 and current student at Union County Magnet School who is the Gold Medalist in the Colombian National Swimming Championship 50-100 Butterfly, 15-16 age category and Anthony Rincon, fifth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 who placed 6th in the 400 yard freestyle and 4th place in the 50 yard backstroke and 200 yard freestyle in the National Colombian Championship Infant Category. Mr. Nazco stated that Natalia achieved a perfect score on the NJASK Mathematics for four consecutive years in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades and Anthony also achieved a perfect score on the NJASK Mathematics in 3rd grade. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2012 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of May 2012

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absences, 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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira (abstain-C.S.), Nazco – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina (abstain- America's United Soccer Academy), Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with Fees

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Muñoz stated that he is pleased to present the Excellence News, the exciting news that has occurred in the Elizabeth Public Schools since we last met. Mr. Muñoz stated that he is pleased to report that under the leadership of the Elizabeth Board of Education led by President Nazco and Vice President Donoso, Board members Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, González, Munn, Padlo, Perreira, and Trujillo, the Elizabeth Board of Education and the community of Elizabeth can proudly announce that they have two of the best high schools in the entire United States of America. Mr. Muñoz stated that recently U.S. News and World Report came out with their high school rankings and listed Elizabeth High School No. 139 in the United States of America and there are over 21,000 high schools in America. Mr. Muñoz stated that the Washington Post listed Elizabeth High School No. 77 in the United States of America. Mr. Muñoz stated that to place it in some context if you look at the U.S. News and World Report rankings of schools in New Jersey, and in particular in Union County and nearby, you will see that Elizabeth High School by U.S. News and World Report was ranked No. 139 and the next closest is Westfield High School at No. 370, Summit at No. 425, Madison at No. 502, New Providence at No. 549, Livingston at 605, our very own Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy at No. 1,421 and high schools like Cranford, Arthur L. Johnson in Clark, and Morristown are not ranked at all by the U.S. News and World Report. Mr. Muñoz stated that when you look at the Washington Post and their rankings, Elizabeth High School is a leader in the nation being ranked No. 77 in the United States and closest to Elizabeth is Cranford at No. 237, Westfield at No. 648, Summit at No. 670, Livingston at 1,068, Madison at No. 1,131, our own Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy is ranked No. 1,444, Arthur L. Johnson in Clark at No. 1,476, Morristown at 1,494, and New Providence at No. 1,604. Mr. Muñoz stated that in addition Newsweek published their high school rankings and Elizabeth High School was ranked No. 217, New Providence was ranked No. 224, Summit at No. 251, Livingston at No. 253, Madison at No. 276, Cranford at No. 279, Westfield at No. 352, Arthur L. Johnson in Clark at No. 820, and Morristown at No. 953. Mr. Muñoz quoted the Principal of Elizabeth High School Michael Cummings, "We are very pleased with the U.S. News and World Report's recognition of our school as one of the best high schools in America. On behalf of the faculty, students, and

parents I would like to thank such an esteemed publication for the honor. It represents a great deal of effort on the part of our students, support from our board of education, and the high standards of our teachers – truly a team effort.”

Mr. Muñoz stated that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was also recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best high schools in America receiving a silver badge of honor and being ranked in America at No. 1,421 out of over 21,000 high schools. Mr. Muñoz stated that the Washington Post ranked Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy at No. 1,444. Mr. Muñoz quoted the Principal of Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy George Mikros, “The appointment of Alexander Hamilton to this national list underscores the quality of our teachers, the dedication of our school community and lastly the hard work and dedication of our students, who day-in and day-out prove that we can compete with any school district, no matter what the socio-economic background or challenge we face. Our students are now considered among the nation’s best.”

Mr. Muñoz stated that our six high schools became among the nation’s best by increasing academic rigor, we increased participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams, we increased performance on state assessments, we increased the graduation rate, and we decreased the dropout rate. Mr. Muñoz stated that one of the initiatives that starts earlier than high school is our Algebra I for all in the eighth grade and that early Algebra leads to higher achievement. Mr. Muñoz stated that as with eighth grade algebra predicting advanced high school course taking, a large number of studies indicate that students who took algebra in eighth grade had higher achievement scores compared to those who did not take algebra in eighth grade. Mr. Muñoz stated that Algebra I in the eighth grade is a requirement for all of our students but some of our students actually take more advanced courses by taking Algebra I in the seventh grade and an advanced course in the eighth grade. Mr. Muñoz stated that Elizabeth is one of the leaders among the former Abbott districts leading the way and in our publication, *Among America’s Best High Schools*, you can see how we dramatically outperform other districts comparable to ours in the number of students taking Algebra I before they get to high school.

Mr. Muñoz stated that our student performance on the high school tests is improving in language arts, that in 2002-2003 59% of our students were proficient in language arts and this year 80% of our students were proficient in language arts which is a 35% increase. Mr. Muñoz stated that in mathematics in 2002-2003 there were 29% proficient and this past year 2011-2012 63% were proficient which is an increase of 117%. Mr. Muñoz stated that our Advanced Placement (AP) exams were up, that the number of students taking the AP exams has improved over a ten year period from 120 exams to 967 exams in 2010-2011 which is an 806% increase and was actually higher in 2011-2012 because the students took over 1,000 AP exams. Mr. Muñoz stated that for those who believe that we can’t open up AP exams to all students that wish to take them because the scores are going to decrease, the trend is to the contrary, as we increase the number of AP exams taken by our students we can have more and more students scoring 3 or higher. Mr. Muñoz stated that in 2000-2001 there were 38 students who scored 3 or higher on the AP exam and in 2010-2011 there were 266 students who scored a 3 or better that prepares them to earn college credits.

Mr. Nazco thanked Superintendent Muñoz for his report.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Revised 2012-2013 School Calendars, 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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo,
Nazco – 7

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: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira,
Nazco – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo,
Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo,
Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, 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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Perreira, Trujillo,
Nazco – 6

Abstain: Mr. Padlo – 1

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote (abstain- M.A.), Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo,
Perreira, Nazco – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Colombia’s Independence Day

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Nazco recognized Honorable Leonor Barreto from the General Colombian Consul of Newark in recognition of the Colombian Consulate’s support to the Colombian community in Elizabeth. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated her and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the audience for being here and supporting our large Colombian community and our many students throughout the district. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that we are honoring our children today and we are celebrating our children and their achievements.

Mr. Trujillo recognized Councilman Frank Cuesta and former Board member Armando DaSilva who are here tonight and have taken their time for the interest of the children’s business.

Resolution – Assignment of Custodian of Records for the 2012-2013 School Year – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Assignment of Deferred Compensation Plan Administrator for the 2012-2013 School Year – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Assignment of Public Agency Compliance Officer for the 2012-2013 School Year – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Assignment of Homeless Student Liaison for the 2012-2013 School Year – Lisette Calvo

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Maximum Travel Expenditure for the 2012-2013 School Year

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. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

The first reading of the revised School Uniforms Policy File Code No. 5132 was done.

Mr. Nazco requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically K.N., K.M., J.T., G.N., M.S., M.S.; reorganization, trade and administrator contracts and Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Donoso, to go into private session at 8:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Nazco – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 10:45 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Mr. Perreira excused himself from the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Mr. Nazco 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.”

Mr. Nazco called upon the first public participant, Jose Rodriguez, to address the Board.

Jose Rodriguez, 618 Jackson Avenue, responded to comments made by Mr. Trujillo at the last Board meeting and that his agenda is to make sure all children learn, to stop nepotism, and to make sure our money is not wasted on frivolous lawsuits and other issues.

Mr. Nazco thanked him for his comments and called upon the next participant, Maria Echavarria, to come forward.

Maria Echavarria, 321 Westfield Avenue, asked why tutors and library were cut out from the budget because extra help in the classroom is beneficial to struggling students and why can't public responses be done earlier.

Mr. Nazco thanked her for her comments and called twice upon the next participant, Stacey Boddie, to come forward. Ms. Boddie did not come forward.

Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mr. Nazco declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mr. Nazco stated that regarding the pension article that was in the Star Ledger yesterday our counsel has reviewed the report by the State Office of the Comptroller and while the report does not reference the Elizabeth Board of Education directly, we are referenced in the Star Ledger without any specifics. Mr. Nazco stated that we have proactively reached out to the State Comptroller to ascertain why we are mentioned in the article and according to our internal review we are abiding by every protocol.

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

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement between EBOE and General Counsel

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement between EBOE and Labor Counsel/Legal Compliance Officer

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement between EBOE and M.S.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement between EBOE and M.S.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement between EBOE and J.T.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement between EBOE and Trade Unions for 2011-2012

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement between EBOE and Trade Unions for 2012-2015

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement between EBOE and Elizabeth Administrators and Supervisory Council (EASC)

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo – 4

Abstain: Mr. Nazco – 1

Negative: None

On a motion by Mrs. Aristote, seconded by Mr. Donoso, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Aristote, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, Padlo, Nazco – 5

Negative: None

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