

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 22, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on August 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following statement at 6:18 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular agenda 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 August 8, 2019. In addition, this notice is posted 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 August 22, 2019 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 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 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: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (arr. 6:40 p.m.), Mrs. Pestana – 8
Absent: Mr. Jacobs – 1

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

Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Pledge of Ethics

Mrs. Pestana introduced a video presentation of the summer programs.

Mrs. Pestana welcomed everyone and stated that we are a few short weeks away from beginning yet another innovative school year in the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Pestana stated that Thursday, September 5th will commence the opening of school doors to all students, parents,

and faculty members as we all strive yet again to ensure that the continued academic and personal success of all of our children is of the utmost importance. Mrs. Pestana stated that we hold our vision to the highest regard when we state that the Elizabeth Public Schools will be one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation. Mrs. Pestana stated that such feats we do understand can be accomplished through all areas within the fields of academics, performing arts, as well as in sports. Mrs. Pestana stated that we are living proof of such an accomplishment taking place right now as we speak, not only proving our highest performance in the nation but in the world. Mrs. Pestana stated that our Elizabeth New Jersey Elmora Troopers are the Little League Mid-Atlantic Champions led by coach Jairo Labrador who is our School No. 7 physical education and health teacher. Mrs. Pestana stated that this is truly a historic moment taking place as we watch with an overwhelming sense of pride our own Elizabeth students participate in the Little League World Series. Mrs. Pestana stated that she cannot think of a better way to open the 2019-2020 school year than to ask everyone to mark their calendars for Friday, September 6th at 1:00 p.m. as we come out to celebrate the Elmora Troopers with a parade for the champions. Mrs. Pestana asked everyone to join us in the continued support of kids celebrating kids and asked for a round of applause for this big accomplishment.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer addressed a concerning matter that was recently brought to their attention. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in light of a New York Times article that was published on July 31, 2019, we would like for all of you to be informed that when School No. 30 opened its doors with a school building dedication ceremony in 2006 it was and has been the practice to name schools after prominent individuals. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that, however, please understand that such practice does not reflect an endorsement of all policies and/or statements of those particular individuals. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to please be aware that there is great concern in the recently uncovered comments that was referenced to in the New York Times article. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she took immediate action to cover the name of the school while the Board of Education will listen to our residents and give these issues consideration.

Mrs. Pestana stated that at this time the Board of Education continues to certify with unwavering effort the Elizabeth residency of our students. Mrs. Pestana stated that during the 2018-2019 school year 265 students transferred out of the district that same school year due to the investigations. Mrs. Pestana stated that nonresident students who occupy seats within our school district are offered the same financial cost for attendance as our resident students. Mrs. Pestana stated that in order to eliminate the burden of cost for the Elizabeth taxpayers and to continue to educate our students within smaller class sizes, the Board will remain persistent in implementing procedures that will ensure the Elizabeth residency of our students.

Board President Pestana 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.”

Mrs. Pestana called upon the first public participant, Jonathan Gibson, to address the board.

Jonathan Gibson, 707 Emerson Avenue, spoke about changing the name of Ronald Reagan School and a school naming policy.

Mrs. Pestana thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Danielle Fienberg, to address the Board.

Danielle Fienberg, 631 North Broad Street, commented that it was a wise and appropriate action to remove the name from School No. 30 and asked what are parents to do with uniforms from that school. Mrs. Fienberg spoke about a single uniform for all students, letters for bussing, and SEPAC.

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

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, stated that the date of the high school orientation should go out with the high school notification, the schools should post the information on the school websites, and the curriculum should be posted on the website.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little, 225 S. Seventh Street, spoke about the goals for the board and administrators and that the renaming of Ronald Reagan School should include the community.

Mrs. Pestana thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about a special needs PTA meeting and requested the flyer be posted to the community connect section of the district website. Mrs. Lorenz spoke about advocacy training and SEPAC.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Salaam Ismial, to address the Board.

Salaam Ismial, 14 Denman Place, National United Youth Council and representative of the African American Alliance, spoke about the negative words by Ronald Reagan and stated that the name needs to be removed from the school and the school uniform should be changed.

Mrs. Pestana thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the board, Mrs. Pestana closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Stephanie Pestana requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, supplemental personnel report, reorganization, tenure charges, specifically, S.B., N.G., suspension with pay N.A., bargaining unit contracts; legal matters, specifically, adoption of board goals, settlement agreements S.J., J.M., special education update, award of contracts, anticipation of litigation; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, J.F., K.G., F.L., S.B., K.D., P.G., and A.T. The board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to go into private session at 6:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus excused herself from the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 10:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via phone 10:45 p.m.), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Board President Stephanie Pestana stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mrs. Pestana stated that we will go tab by tab and each board member may ask questions. The board reviewed the agenda.

Minutes of the Agenda and Business Meetings of July 18, 2019

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2019

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta speak about the report.

Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta gave a summary of the Personnel Report.

Tuition Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the tuition for Newark Public Schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it pertains to homeless students.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this report contains professional development opportunities which our supervisors and teachers will be pursuing in the beginning of the school year.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report - Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results

Mrs. 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. Pestana added the Minutes of the Meetings, Secretary/Treasurer's Report, Personnel Report, Supplemental Personnel Report, Tuition Report, Superintendent's Report – Considerations, Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, and Superintendent's Report - Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results to the agenda.

Authorizations Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there is a recommendation made by Joseph Przytula, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Safety for a new initiative that is being launched this year for teachers to have the opportunity to register with the Calm Schools Initiative Meditation/Mindfulness Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is offered at no cost to the district and the goal is to develop a lifelong capacity for greater self-awareness, concentration, patience, and resilience to anxiety and stress.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if that will be taught to the teachers and when does it begin.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is primarily for our teachers to participate in the wellness program and is being launched in September.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if it will be available for the board members.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded yes it will be available for the board members if they would like to participate.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that included in the report is the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant with the various categories for the activities for this school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in this report there are 195 fund raising activities being requested for this year.

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this report has our annual affiliation agreement with Kean University, which allows for the placement of student teachers in various schools in our district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the report also includes the district professional development plan and the district mentoring plan. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our district mentoring plan has served as a model for the County in previous years and we have had the opportunity to provide some guidance to other school districts with regard to the type of mentoring provided to our first year teachers.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this report has the contract with Learning Sciences International for the license renewal to provide professional development training including Danielson Framework for Teachers, the Danielson Framework for Specialists, and the Robert Marzano School Leadership Evaluation Model. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this report also

includes renewal contracts with Union County Educational Services Commission to provide services to Title I eligible students attending non-public schools in Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the report includes contracts for athletic equipment and supplies, the replacement of the chiller at School No. 25, early childhood providers, professional development opportunities for our professional development day scheduled for September 4th, training provided to our early childhood teachers and child development associates, Union County Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce for a new initiative to provide mentoring for our students and valuable work experience, HIB assemblies and workshops, Historical Society of Elizabeth, Estuary Day, professional development to launch the new literacy program and math program, disposal of obsolete equipment, marching band instructors, Union County Sheriff's Office K-9 Program, Union County Prosecutor's Office Detectives to conduct school-wide cyber-bullying and internet safety assemblies and parent workshops, and Breaking the Cycle for anti-bullying assemblies throughout the district.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked about the contract with Pearson Education and if our students will be using a password for the platform in math.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the Pearson System of Courses is a platform for our middle school math program at School No. 4 and Dwyer Technology Academy.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if our parents can visit the training and if the students will have a password to watch the videos at home.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it is for the curriculum used in these two schools and there are a number of extension activities that they can also do at home.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this report includes a contracts for the replacement of a boiler at Hamilton Preparatory Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there are contracts with USA Architects to subdivide the library at School No. 7 in order to open additional special education classrooms and alterations at the iLeap Center at Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy to provide the launch for the Make the Road NJ initiative. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that also included are renewal contracts for professional development with Agile Mind, technology information systems, speech therapy, and occupational and physical therapy services.

Mrs. Hernandez asked how are the schools decided where the Catapult Learning wrap-around services are offered.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it is based on the enrollment and there needs to be a minimum of twenty parents that express interest in order to establish a Catapult program.

2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is a recommendation from Luis Couto, Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment regarding abatement related to the roof replacement at School No. 15.

Miscellaneous Communication - None Claims List

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Pestana added the Authorizations Report, Supplemental Authorizations Report, Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds, Award of Contracts, Supplemental Award of Contracts, 2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report, Miscellaneous Communication, and Claims List to the agenda.

- Resolution – Five Year Curriculum Plan 2019-2024
- Resolution – Curriculum Guides 2019-2020
- Resolution – Programs of Study 2019-2020
- Resolution – Textbooks 2019-2020
- Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing Professional Consultants for Board Governance
- Resolution – Acceptance of Purchase Orders for Out-of-Service School Buses
- Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
- Resolution – Deputy Counsel Contract
- Resolution – Associate Counsel Contract
- Resolution – Lead Investigator Contract
- Resolution – Paralegal Contract
- Resolution – Confidential Legal Secretaries Contract
- Resolution – Chief Information Officer (Technology) Contract
- Resolution – Confidential Administrative Secretaries Contract
- Resolution – Senior Staffing Assistant Contract
- Resolution – Staffing Assistants Contract
- Resolution – Human Resources Confidential Secretaries Contract
- Resolution – Chief of Operations and Comptroller Contracts
- Resolution – Assistant Superintendents and School Business Administrator Contracts
- Resolution – Approving Addendum to Extend Agreement between BOE and ESS Northeast, LLC d/b/a Source4Teachers
- Resolution – Authorizing the Issuance of an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) Request for Proposals
- Resolution – Appointing Portuguese Auto Repair to Service District Small to Midsized Trucks and Other Vehicles
- Resolution – Appointing Portuguese Auto Repair to Service District Large Trucks and Other Vehicles
- Resolution – Appointing Trinitas Children’s Therapy Services to Provide Physical and Occupational Therapy Services to District Students and Approving Form of Contract

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.
Mrs. Pestana added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Mrs. Pestana added the following resolutions to the agenda:

- Resolution – Transfer of Vice Principal – Linda Ferreira
- Resolution – Suspension with Pay – Nelly Acevedo
- Resolution – Transfer – Nicholas John Perretti
- Resolution – Termination of Employment effective August 15, 2019 – Claudia Certuche
- Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – Joanne Madeline
- Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – Sharon Jackson
- Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2018-14251) – Anthony Torres
- Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2000-3744) – Frank LaFace
- Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2009-14378) – Kathleen Glackin
- Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2017-34213) – Josue Fajardo
- Resolution – Adoption of 2019-2020 Board Goals
- Resolution – Appointing Varsity Brands Holding Co., Inc. d/b/a Varsity Spirit Fashions and Supplies, LLC to Provide Cheerleading Athletic Equipment and Supplies
- Resolution – Appointing V.A. Tramontano and Son, Inc. to Provide Fresh Produce Items for District Food Services

Resolution – Appointing Henry Schein, Inc. and School Health Corporation to Provide Athletic
Trainer Medical Equipment and Supplies
First reading of the new Policy File Code 5145.7 – Gender Identity and Expression

On a motion by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Neron, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

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