

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 28, 2014
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:20 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 Monday, August 25, 2014. 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 August 28, 2014 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Absent: Messrs. Perreira, Trujillo – 2

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, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. González gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Ethics

Mr. Monteiro requested to defer the approval of the minutes until the end of the agenda.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

Ms. Bathelus stated that she has noticed over the last few months that we have done a lot of transfers between both non-professionals and professional staff members and asked if there is a methodology used to determine who is being transferred and why.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer responded that typically the transfers are as a result of the employee having requested a transfer or based on the need. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that meeting with the principals we conduct staffing meetings and review all of the staff and all of the enrollment and that dictates the need for certain schools to have teachers to be transferred.

Ms. Bathelus stated that we know that it is going to affect the school and we replenish it with other staff members.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we look at the needs of the school and take into consideration the transfers and how to best meet those needs.

Ms. Bathelus asked when the staff members are informed that they are being transferred.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the staff members are informed upon Board approval and our Human Resources Department contacts every person to let them know with regard to the transfer.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the staff members who are retiring and acknowledged those with more than 25 years of service.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she is voting no because there are too many last minute changes and last minute transfers.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo (abstain- G.C., M.K.), González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 6

Negative: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Supplemental Personnel Report – Reappointment, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 6

Negative: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina (abstain- America's United Soccer Academy, Merlin Soccer Club, Our Lady of Fatima), Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron (abstain- City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services S.O.A.R. Program), Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated Mr. Trujillo mentioned a few times and he is going to agree with him that sometimes our fields, especially our soccer fields and athletic fields, are left in disarray. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the requestors for the athletic fields could sign an agreement reminding them again to please leave the field as clean as we gave it to them.

Mr. Kennedy stated that last month and this month particularly it was communicated to them because of our budget situation and the ability in the past that we were able to waive all the fees that now they would have to cover the cost of custodians and security. Mr. Kennedy stated that as part of that conversation he personally reminded them of the complaints that we have been receiving about the state of our fields after they leave. Mr. Kennedy stated that they have been reminded but we still want to have a meeting with all of them.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter into Contract, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez (negative- Garrubbo & Capece, P.C.) – 5

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Monteiro – 2

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is voting no to Garrubbo & Capece, P.C. and knows the service was already done but he feels strongly against using that law firm.

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo (abstain- Document Solutions), González, Neron, Rodriguez – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. González, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo (abstain- E.K.), González, Neron, Rodriguez – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo (abstain- C.S.), González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – National Hispanic Heritage Month

Mr. Fajardo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Environmental Safety Program 2014-2015 Laboratory Safety Audits

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Fajardo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Five Year Curriculum Plan (2014-2019)

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Curriculum Guides 2014-2015 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Programs of Study 2014-2015 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Fajardo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Textbooks in Use 2014-2015 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

The second reading was done of the following revised regulation and exhibit:

4151/4251(X-B) Exhibit Medical Certificate

6142.10(R) Regulation Acceptable Use for Technology – Electronic Mobile Devices

Resolution – Revised Regulation and Exhibit

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Fajardo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Acceptable Use of Technology for Mobile Electronic Devices is going to be sent home with our students and requested it be translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole.

Board President Monteiro 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. Monteiro called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, stated that she is the mother of two special needs children and asked about the after school programs for special needs children.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and requested she give her contact information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes.

Mr. Monteiro called upon the next public participant, Evelyn Chapman, to address the Board.

Evelyn Chapman, 448 Jefferson Avenue, stated that she is a member of the Elizabeth Education Organizing Committee and spoke about anti-bullying.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Monteiro called twice upon the next public participant, John Bonilla, to address the Board. Since Mr. Bonilla did not come forward and there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mr. Monteiro declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the last public speaker was going to address a transportation issue and he may be in a meeting room with administrators from the Transportation Department who are here tonight to address questions and concerns.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina responded to the concerns of the parent with special needs and explained the procedure for out of district placements that are based on the child study team recommendation and the child's needs and that children need to be educated in the least restrictive environment.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is a special education teacher and the budget for special education is a little less than \$50 million and half of it is used to pay tuitions for students who go out of district. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have 333 students who go out of district and we have 2,100 total students in our district who have IEPs so they are special needs. Mr. Rodriguez stated that speaking for himself, and not the Board of Education, he wants to apologize because in his opinion there are not many afterschool activities for special needs in the City or the Board of Education. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is something that he personally needs to fight for more and he knows his colleagues would be open to it and it is not because they are close minded and it's not that they are against it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is something that he will keep on his radar and try to do more not only in the Board of Education but also in the City.

Mr. Monteiro responded to Ms. Chapman about anti-bullying and stated that the Board created an Anti-Bullying Task Force Committee and introduced Chairman Francisco González.

Mr. González stated that when it comes to the anti-bullying policy we follow the State's regulations and guidelines. Mr. González stated that we have an Anti-Bullying Specialist at every school and we take every case very seriously. Mr. González explained the procedure for investigating anti-bullying and stated that we have very strict guidelines. Mr. González stated that we have training of our staff and PTA/PTO meetings throughout our district have anti-bullying training and information for parents. Mr. González stated that we are doing everything that is required to make sure this happens less and to ensure that our 26,000 children are respected. Mr. González stated that if there are any questions or specific concerns to please contact Eunice Couselo, Anti-Bullying Coordinator so that it can be investigated. Mr. González stated that we investigate each case and take every concern seriously.

Mr. Neron thanked Ms. Lorenz for speaking and addressing her concerns about special needs. Mr. Neron stated that it has been a longtime concern here in this district and we have been working closely with the Superintendent to find better ways to better serve our students. Mr. Neron thanked her for coming tonight and stating the facts and making it known to the public and to the elected officials here tonight that we make sure we continue to advocate. Mr. Neron stated that he can assure her that we will continue to do that and requested that she follow up with the

Assistant Superintendent and if she needs to get in touch with any Board members to please do so.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he would like to speak with Ms. Lorenz personally to find out if she has ideas or particular concerns that he can bring to the Board members because he understands her pain and he feels her pain. Mr. Fajardo stated that he knows the pain that she is going through and it is not easy and is very, very difficult and he does understand.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer stated that she would like to address the concerns of Ms. Lorenz, specifically. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for the past school year, 2013-2014, we offered three days of academic programs afterschool and two days that were dedicated to the arts afterschool districtwide. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that these program options are available to all of our students not just the general education students but to all of our students, our English Language Learners, our special needs students, as well as our general education students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this past summer we had various options available to our community as well and we had two very successful enrichment programs, Contagious Curiosity which is dedicated to math and science and our Summer Arts Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that both programs are open to all of our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she would be happy to speak with Ms. Lorenz personally to understand her situation because we certainly do not turn away any student, on the contrary, our intent is always to serve 100% of our students who apply for the programs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that if there is a particular need, whether it is an English Language Learner or a special needs student, it is our responsibility to provide the teacher. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we certainly service all of our students for all of our programs.

Mr. Neron stated that he has a concern and wanted to make a statement and make sure that we can do something about it. Mr. Neron stated that earlier this year we approved a 0% budget tax increase to the district which was approved by the County and was received with appreciation by the residents. Mr. Neron commended Superintendent Hugelmeyer and the committee for this achievement. Mr. Neron stated that according to policy we have a responsibility to adopt a budget that will provide resources to address district needs for our children and providing employees with materials and equipment to enable the school system to carry out its functions. Mr. Neron stated that it is our responsibility to assure that the best fiscal management practices are followed and that we serve to the best of our ability. Mr. Neron stated that we are charged with being good stewards. Mr. Neron stated that once the budget is approved, minutes are published, statements are made, and citizens notified through proper channels and he appeals to his colleagues on this Board to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty and not use our Elizabeth Board of Education resources to promote personal political agendas. Mr. Neron stated that we are elected to serve this district in a capacity that promotes education and focuses on our children. Mr. Neron stated that whether it is an election season or not the Board should remain focused on the matters that reflect the accomplishments of our students, staff and school community. Mr. Neron stated that the use of Board of Education resources to promote individuals on the Board is inappropriate particularly when Board members are seeking reelection. Mr. Neron stated that our school buildings should be used for promotion of school accomplishments, student achievement, and academic excellence and not a billboard for political rhetoric throughout the year. Mr. Neron stated that our website should not be used to make political statements like comparing City taxes to Board taxes. Mr. Neron stated that it is unethical, inappropriate, and absurd. Mr. Neron stated that he is making a recommendation to the Board to remove any political propaganda and messaging from school property and our website. Mr. Neron stated that we should immediately remove banners that have been erected outside each school facility boasting about taxes. Mr. Neron stated that candidates for reelection should use their own election accounts to get their message out regarding their political agendas not the Board of Education resources. Mr. Neron stated that it is disrespectful to our residents, disrespectful to our employees, disrespectful to our other Board members, and disrespectful to our children. Mr. Neron stated that at all times when we use

school property it is a wonderful thing that we are able to save tax dollars but the message that we need to promote on school buildings is a message that promotes education, promotes excellence, and promotes agendas of our Superintendent which is for all children to achieve excellence here in this district.

Mr. González stated that in regard to five resolutions from the July 17, 2014 Board meeting he is making a motion to rescind, reconsider, and revote on the following resolutions 2014-2015 Contract for the Assistant Superintendents, 2014-2015 Contract for the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, and Transfer to Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to rescind five resolutions and revote the 2014-2015 Contract for Assistant Superintendents, 2014-2015 Contract for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, and Transfer to Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno.

Ms. Bathelus asked what Board meeting is this referring to.

Mr. González responded July 17, 2014.

Ms. Bathelus asked where exactly the vote is in these minutes and what page.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the two contracts and three appointments are on pages 8, 9, 10, and 11 in the Board minutes.

Ms. Bathelus asked what the difference is between us voting on July 17th and us about to vote on it now.

Mr. Kennedy explained that the motion now is to rescind the resolutions from July 17, 2014.

Ms. Bathelus stated that then we are going to vote on the same resolutions again.

Mr. Kennedy explained that they will have been rescinded and we need to vote on them again.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there is an issue with them.

Mr. Kennedy explained that this is to correct a technicality in the vote on July 17, 2014.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if we can't talk about it in public because they are personnel issues. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he wanted to know why and Mr. Kennedy stated that there was a technicality error. Mr. Rodriguez asked if it is possible to be told what the technicalities were in public.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the technicality is that there should have been certain abstentions in the vote.

Mr. Neron asked for clarification on what we are rescinding.

Mr. Kennedy explained that there are five resolutions that were voted on in the July 17, 2014 meeting and passed and this vote rescinds those resolutions that were passed on July 17.

Mr. Neron stated that those resolutions passed and now we are rescinding them.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Monteiro – 5

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Rodriguez – 2

Ms. Bathelus stated that she voted that way because it was clearly voted in a positive way at the last meeting and all of a sudden we are changing it. Ms. Bathelus stated that people who are supposed to abstain should have abstained last month and not wait until now to abstain.

Resolution – 2014-2015 Contract for Assistant Superintendents

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

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he just wants to be sure that nothing in the contracts has changed.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the contracts have not changed.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she would like to clarify for those not in the educational system. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina commended the Assistant Superintendents for the work they do to keep the district moving and stated that she truly appreciates the hard work they do and we are headed in the right direction.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this resolution is for the contract for the Assistant Superintendents and asked how many votes are needed to pass the resolution.

Mr. Kennedy explained that for all personnel actions five votes are needed.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he totally supports the Assistant Superintendents and the work that they do and continue to do and the hours that they put in. Mr. Monteiro stated that they go above and beyond and they have his full support. Mr. Monteiro stated that what happened in July and obviously it was a technicality we are just voting on the same contract again. Mr. Monteiro stated that his heart goes out to them if they do not get the support tonight or those that see fit not to vote for you. Mr. Monteiro stated that he fully supports them.

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the full membership.

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 4

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, Neron – 3

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus stated that it's not that she doesn't support them, she does support them but she feels that certain board members may have voted the wrong way or were supposed to abstain and did not abstain. Ms. Bathelus stated that now we are trying to give them a grace period, give them a pass, so they can vote the way that they are supposed to vote. Ms. Bathelus stated that is the reason she is going to abstain.

Mr. Neron stated that he thinks we need to discuss this in private because there is a lot of confusion.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he echoes his colleague Ms. Bathelus' concern but he does support the Assistant Superintendents and is voting yes. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he has concerns that fellow members should have abstained when they should have abstained.

Resolution – 2014-2015 Contract for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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

Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Lehman to explain to his colleagues on the Board the reason for the minutes of the meeting being moved to the end of the agenda because we have yet to vote on the approval of minutes. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are presented with the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have time to read it and if there is something that we said or voted on in a way we shouldn't we still have that time to make an adjustment and asked Mr. Lehman if that is the purpose of the minutes.

Mr. Lehman stated that prior to the minutes being approved it is a way to correct a technical voting error.

Mr. Monteiro stated that it is a technical error and now many of our administrators will have to suffer.

Mr. González stated that anyone can make a mistake one day in voting and then want to rescind it. Mr. González stated that he feels it is a courtesy to our peers that if they make a mistake and try to rescind it and to correct it and to support them and you may be in the same situation someday.

Ms. Bathelus stated that it could and she doesn't think she would be given that courtesy.

Mr. González responded that he probably will because sometimes we don't think of it and we are busy with what is going on in the meeting.

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the full membership.

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 4

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, Neron – 3

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Schools – Rafael Cortes

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

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the full membership.

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 4

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, Neron – 3

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro commented that he is very sorry.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that as an educator she really cannot understand this.

Mr. Fajardo stated that this is politics before education.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the Assistant Superintendents are part of the leadership of the school system. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that if they don't understand each Assistant Superintendent is assigned to different schools and they see how the school is moving and how they are making progress. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that if they don't understand what education is all about it is about educating our children and that we have to make sure who is caring for our children including the custodians, security guards, and aides. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there is a lot of work to be done and it is teamwork and the teachers cannot do it alone, the Superintendent cannot do it alone, and the Assistant Superintendents are part of the team.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she has been in education for twenty years and has never seen anything like this.

Mr. Neron stated that he thinks we had confusion before and he is just asking for clarification. Mr. Neron stated that is why he said he wants to discuss it in private and that is all he is asking for. Mr. Neron stated that no one is trying to stop the district from functioning. Mr. Neron stated that he needs clarification so that we can be on one accord because obviously there is a lot of confusion going on.

Resolution – Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Schools – Linda Seniszyn

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

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the full membership.

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 4

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, Neron – 3

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo stated that he wishes he could vote yes for Mrs. Seniszyn and Mr. Cortes but he has to abstain. Mr. Fajardo stated that if he did not have to abstain they would have his vote because he knows their dedication and the kind of work they do for this district. Mr. Fajardo stated that unfortunately they get caught in the middle of these things here but he is bound by this and it is embarrassing that they have to go through this.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he wanted to echo Mr. Neron's comments and he would have appreciated going into private and speaking about this and getting some clarification before voting.

Resolution – Transfer to Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning – Jennifer Cedeno

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

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the full membership.

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 4

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, Neron – 3

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer if this individual goes back to Principal.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if we could discuss this in private.

Mr. Fajardo responded that this is not a private matter but this is just a vacancy.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Lehman if the resolution was a change in title from Interim Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach to Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it was a change in title which was voted down so she will revert back to Interim Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach.

Mr. Lehman responded that is correct.

Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Lehman for a point of clarification for everyone to understand that when some Board members abstain there may be reasons for that abstention and they may be conflicted for reasons of technicalities because they cannot vote on a certain appointment, position, or contract. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Fajardo would like to vote for this and support this but he may be conflicted and has to abstain. Mr. Monteiro stated that there is a difference

between that abstention and those who choose to abstain for reasons of politics when our schools are about to open in two weeks. Mr. Monteiro stated that in two weeks our schools open and this throws us into chaos. Mr. Monteiro stated that they voted on this just a month and a half ago and now they are going to rescind it and it is absurd and beyond any rationality.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the minutes of the meetings of July 17, 31, and August 14, 2014 be accepted as amended.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that there was just talk about playing politics here and he was absent at the August 14th meeting. Mr. Rodriguez stated that reading through the minutes and hearing through the grapevine of some of the political wrangling that was occurring about an issue with the Mayor of our City in terms of something on Twitter going back and forth about Schools 1 and 9. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there are some comments made here according to the minutes saying that our Mayor was making racial remarks about a certain staff member which he finds to be absurd because nothing he ever said had anything to do with race or pointed to race. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we were just talking about political wrangling that might or might not have occurred and he believes that this is just some of that also. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he apologized for not being here and wished he could have. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he finds the conduct upsetting and not something that elected officials should be doing.

Mr. Monteiro stated that with regard to the comments made at the last meeting the Mayor sent out in a Twitter message that he can't believe we are naming a school after one of our administrators, Jerome Dunn. Mr. Monteiro stated that first he said that we were changing the name of George Washington School which was a lie because we are not changing the name of George Washington School. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are creating two schools in place of one to make it more manageable and the other school will be called Jerome Dunn Academy. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Mayor also sent a Twitter message that he couldn't believe we were doing that and called him a napping administrator. Mr. Monteiro stated that you can take that any way you want to take it and he takes that as a thinly veiled racist remark. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Mayor's second remark was that we were only creating another school to create more patronage jobs for new administrators and that was to support the corrupt school board. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Mayor called the school board corrupt and asked Mr. Rodriguez if he was corrupt.

Mr. Rodriguez responded absolutely not.

Mr. Monteiro asked the board members if they were corrupt.

Each Board member responded no.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the Mayor called this school board corrupt, he didn't say me individually or you individually but the school board is corrupt. Mr. Monteiro state that he went as far as saying the Board opened this new school to create new jobs for administrators who are qualified and competent for all these years and in the same line called them corrupt. Mr. Monteiro asked if they think our administrators are corrupt. Mr. Monteiro stated that it was over the top, outrageous and unbecoming of a Mayor to say those things about anyone here in this school district. Mr. Monteiro stated that these men and women work too hard day in and day out for this school district and he will not stand for that and no one in this district should stand for that including Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Monteiro stated that it wasn't politics and politics we understand. Mr. Monteiro stated that he said that, he wrote that and it was unbecoming of him and now he is going to respond. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Rodriguez supported the statement that the Mayor called this school board and his colleagues corrupt and asked if that is okay.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his comments had to do with race and not anything else.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we responded and replied by his letter, the President of the Board of Education, to the staff of the Elizabeth Board of Education about those false allegations about the name change of George Washington School. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Rodriguez was wrong and off mark on this. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is really diverting from what is happening here today and in two weeks we are about to open our schools and all the assistant superintendents have been interviewed, qualified, trained, and have been going through workshops and now this district has been turned upside down by the politics that took place here this evening. Monteiro stated that it is not ok and it is wrong.

Mr. Neron commented to please not paint a picture of a state of disarray. Mr. Neron stated that they are clearly asking for clarification and that is what he requested and when we go to private he would like to discuss it further. Mr. Neron stated that all this ranting that we are doing this is what exactly the public is talking about and they don't want to see that, they are frustrated with it and sick and tired of it so we need to stop. Mr. Neron stated that all he is asking for is clarification and he wasn't even here for the July 17th meeting. Mr. Neron stated that all he is asking for is clarification and let's discuss it like the responsible leaders we are in private so we can come back out here and make the right decision.

Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Neron is entitled to that and he doesn't take it away from him.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it is painful and hurtful to see that things like this do occur in an institution such as this that has come such a long way from being one of the worst to being one of the best urban school districts in the State of New Jersey and there are so many fine people who are so dedicated to making the system work. Mr. Fajardo stated that he attended the Elizabeth Public School system, his children attended the Elizabeth Public School system, and his grandchildren are attending the Elizabeth Public School system. Mr. Fajardo stated that he believes in the Elizabeth Public School system so every action that he takes up there affects his family, his grandchildren and he doesn't put his grandchildren in the course of politics. Mr. Fajardo stated that when you do, unfortunately, have a civic leader, a Mayor, that goes as far as saying what he did say in his Twitter about an administrator when what we are doing is trying to improve the education of a school that is so much needed. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers someone showing him Facebook and one of the Board members who spoke before took credit for doing that and creating this new idea and yet the Mayor calls it what he calls it. Mr. Fajardo stated that the Mayor addresses a fine individual who grew up in the Old South, in the segregated South, came to this City and educated himself, worked more than 40 years of his life for the children of this City and we honor him because of what he did and particularly he worked many, many years in that school with the Community Program and Evening School for many, many years. Mr. Fajardo asked how do we know if this individual, who is still such a young man at his age who decided to retire, has a health situation that he had to retire and yet you have a Mayor who goes out and says something like this. Mr. Fajardo stated that he happens to know the answer to that and he wishes Mr. Jerome Dunn could have stayed and had the strength to stay because certainly he was a tremendous plus for the children of this City. Mr. Fajardo stated that personally as someone who has his interest in the Elizabeth Public School system because his children attended the Elizabeth Public School system and his grandchildren are attending the Elizabeth Public School system it is embarrassing and a shame that we do this to someone who gave his life to the education of the children. Mr. Fajardo encouraged and asked those people who are involved in education to understand that at the end of the day and at the end of the evening everything that you do and every vote that you take here you must not do so with anger but you must do so with what you are doing to the children and to those who educate our children.

Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for their comments and stated that he respects everyone for being here tonight. Mr. Monteiro thanked all the administrators here tonight and taking time away from their families. Mr. Monteiro recognized Rose Carreto, Elizabeth Education

Association President, who is in attendance and thanked her and all the members of her organization for all that they do for this district. Mr. Monteiro stated that an attack on one is an attack on all and he finds that a colleague on this board can actually defend the comments of our Mayor is astounding. Mr. Monteiro stated that he felt that they were divisive, derogatory and no place needed in this City. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are trying to unite this City and we want to be one Elizabeth and be one family and put all the nonsense behind us.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he wants the people here and at home to understand the importance of an independent school board. Mr. Monteiro stated that this once was a school board was controlled by political forces not more than maybe 12 years ago and we were 497th worse in the State. Mr. Monteiro stated that now we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and there is something to be said about having an independent school board, a school board that is not going to cow tow to those political forces. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is children first, quality education, and the great men and women who work day in and day out making this a great district. Mr. Monteiro stated that as a board member here and not getting paid for the amount of hours that all of us put into this he can never thank them enough for all that they do because he has experienced it, lived it, the hours, the teachers, and it is incredible. Mr. Monteiro stated that his hat goes off to all of them for all that they have done to make this district #1.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez (abstain- August 14, 2014), Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he wants to remind the public that he gladly said yes to name School No. 9 the Jerome Dunn Academy and he is very happy that we are naming it for him.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of revised Board Core Beliefs, personnel, specifically interviews, Superintendent 2014-2015 Goals, amended resolutions, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results and Workers' Compensation Claims, specifically, D.Q., T.M., and J.I. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to go into private session at 8:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

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

The Board reconvened in public at 11:30 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Mr. Neron stated that during the regular session of the agenda he voted with abstentions because he needed clarification so he would like to change his vote to yes for the five resolutions that he abstained from earlier.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the five resolutions that previously didn't pass have now passed with five votes.

Ms. Bathelus stated that after further clarification in private session she would like to change her vote to yes for the five resolutions she previously abstained from earlier.

Resolution – 2014-2015 Contract for Assistant Superintendents

With the change in votes the motion was carried.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Neron, Rodriguez – 5

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – 2014-2015 Contract for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

With the change in votes the motion was carried.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Neron, Rodriguez – 5

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Schools – Rafael Cortes

With the change in votes the motion was carried.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Neron, Rodriguez – 5

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Schools – Linda Seniszyn

With the change in votes the motion was carried.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Neron, Rodriguez – 5

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Transfer to Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning – Jennifer Cedeno

With the change in votes the motion was carried.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Neron, Rodriguez – 5

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Vice Principal – Shari Koll

The resolution was read by Mr. Neron.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Fajardo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Vice Principal – Maria Labrador

The resolution was read by Mr. González.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Fajardo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

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

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

Second Supplemental Personnel Report – Transfers

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 5

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2012-19007 – D.Q.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. González, Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 5

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Increment Withholding and Salary Adjustment

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 5

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Superintendent’s Goals for the 2014-2015 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Ospina – 5

Negative: None

The first reading was done of the following revised bylaw:

9305 Bylaw Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs and Commitments

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mrs. Castillo-Ospina asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that earlier in the meeting one of his colleagues read a statement about some things having to do with banners and he would like to present a resolution. Mr. Rodriguez stated that his intention is that some of the banners we have outside our schools serve a good purpose but he thinks they would like to see more banners and only banners really that have to do with our students’ and our district’s success in how our students achieve. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he hopes his colleagues can support this resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to adopt a resolution.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he believes the banners that are throughout the district tell the story of the work and performance of the Elizabeth Board of Education, tells the story of achievement of this district, and tells the story of the hard work by so many people to make it possible that we educate our children. Mr. Fajardo stated that, specifically, the banners that he sees now are banners that tell people that we didn’t raise taxes. Mr. Fajardo stated when Mr. Rodriguez ran for office last year he was telling people that we raised taxes and that was one of

the propaganda pieces that he was using. Mr. Fajardo stated that with all due respect to Mr. Rodriguez, and he means that from the bottom of his heart, with all due respect, he can't have it both ways. Mr. Fajardo stated that he will vote no on this resolution because it is a disservice to the people of the City of Elizabeth.

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the Board.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Negative: Messrs. Fajardo, González, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 3

Mr. Fajardo stated that he would like to move that we, the Elizabeth Board of Education, pass a resolution asking that the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth apologize to Assistant Superintendent Jerome Dunn for the inappropriate language used against him, the insulting language used against our former Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Fajardo stated that it was a disservice to the people of the City of Elizabeth, to the children, and to a longtime employee of this Board of Education who served the children very well. Mr. Fajardo stated that he knows Mr. Jerome Dunn has strong shoulders and he knows that he didn't even bother with this. Mr. Fajardo stated that here is an individual who came from the Old South, an individual who grew up in a segregated society, an individual who we don't know what his health condition is and to be called a napping Assistant Superintendent is an insult. Mr. Fajardo stated that he would like to pass a resolution from this Board of Education asking for the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth to apologize for his insult to Mr. Jerome Dunn.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. González, to adopt a resolution for the Mayor to apologize.

The motion did not pass lacking majority of the Board.

Affirmative: Messrs. Fajardo, González, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 3

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Mr. Fajardo requested the resolution be forwarded to Mr. Jerome Dunn and be placed on the website so the people of the City and employees of this educational system see where the members of this Board of Education stand.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the resolution doesn't pass it wouldn't be put anywhere.

Mr. Kennedy explained that the minutes would reflect that there was a vote on the resolution.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it does show who abstained, who voted yes, and who voted no.

Mr. Kennedy stated that just like any of our minutes it will show the vote.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it will be very clear in black and white and you can't hide on this one.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it will show a resolution was proposed with a first and second and vote.

Mr. Rodriguez commended the Superintendent and her staff. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he knows there was a lot of transfers and a lot of movement and that it is usually the normal course in education and June and August are very busy months where a lot of movement happens. Mr. Rodriguez commended the Superintendent for her well thought out moves especially our vice principals and administrators. Mr. Rodriguez stated that she explained those transfers to us in detail and why and he fully supports her and commended the Superintendent for taking the time and exhaustive amounts of effort it takes for her and her staff. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he appreciates it and he knows his colleagues echo it.

Mr. González stated that he reminded his fellow Board members that school opens on September 8 and encouraged them to visit multiple schools. Mr. González stated that it is important to those who can if work permits and it is important that we show our principals, our parents, and our students that we care. Mr. González stated that he knows we can't be in every school but always try to make as many as we can. Mr. González stated that it is a great day and he looks forward to it every year and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the administration who has worked very hard this week to guide our principals, vice principals, and directors. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there have been a lot of positive changes and sometimes change is good because people change their abilities. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that if you move from one school to another it is not a punishment and she will see it as a reward because their skills are needed somewhere else and they can provide that to our children. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that if we are trying to give a better education to our children we have to share the staff and their skills. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that it has been a very successful week and they have had excellent guest speakers. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she is glad that they are taking the initiative under the guidance of the Superintendent and there are very good changes. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that we are here to educate our children, provide them with a good education, be good examples, and promote the parents to become part of our team here. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the presence of the parents is so important and with the two new schools, 1 and 9, it is going to make a big difference. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that soon our new high school will be opening and it has been a wonderful year for all of us and there have been a lot of changes. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that with all of the changes we are moving this district ahead. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the teachers may not be happy with the change but will be very happy on the first day of school when the doors open and see that they can make a difference in the children's lives that is what counts and that is their mission.

Mr. Neron welcomed everyone back to school and hopes they have a successful and wonderful brand new school year.

On a motion by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. González, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina – 6

Negative: None

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