

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
(Pending Board Approval)

June 17, 2025
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Stanley J. Neron called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the June 17, 2025, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education and read the following statement:

“Good evening and welcome to our Board of Education Meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education. This is a combined regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star-Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on June 11, 2025. 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, New Jersey.

“We want to welcome everyone present here at School No. 51 and to our television viewers to this June 17, 2025 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. So that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking.

We 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.

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must personally sign in prior to the start of the public participation portion 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.”

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 Board of Education.

Present: Dr. Barbosa,, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messer's Rivera, (arrived at 7:51 p.m.), Neron-9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedenno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch-Johnson., Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy Jr, Assistant School Business Administrator Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel, Heather Savage Ford Esq, Chief of Operations, Frank Cuesta, and Co-General Counsel, Edward Kologi Esq., of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

Mr. Neron asked everyone to please stand for a moment of silence in memory of

Rexine Waldron Rowley, Mother of Karen Cuesta, Retired Teacher-Fourth Grade, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19 and Mother-in-Law of Frank Cuesta, Chief of Operations, James P. Mitchell Building.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Vice-President Maria Carvalho

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member, Charlene Bathelus.

Mr. Neron then read the following statement:
Citizens may address the Board.

“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 microphone 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 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies were provided next to the sign in sheet)”.

The following rules shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced.
2. No personal attacks on individuals or the naming of individuals.
3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Comments will not be debated.

Any person in violation of the Policy will be warned, and their comments terminated if needed. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting.”

“As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mr. Neron called upon the first participant, John Griffin, President of the Elizabeth Education Association to address the Board.

Mr. Griffin, President of the Elizabeth Education Association spoke about Teachers and Staff being justly compensated and how the EEA and The Board need to take a team approach to getting a new contract in place.

Mr. Neron called upon the next participant Mrs. Marie Medeiros.

Mrs. Medeiros spoke about academic issues with a student in her care

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments.

Dr. Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Cedeno, to meet with Mrs. Medeiros to address her concerns.

Since there were no public participants signed up to address the Board, Mr. Neron closed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Neron thanked Mr. Griffin and members of the EEA Leadership for their attendance at tonight's meeting. He said he echoed Mr. Griffin's feelings that we need to work together as a team to come to a fair and reasonable contract. The Board does value the administrators, teachers and all of our staff and we want a contract that will have no layoffs, fair compensation and we all must work collaboratively to make this a reality.

President Neron asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present the Community announcements for June.

- The Schools and district will be closed on Friday June 20th in celebration of Juneteenth
- 2025 World of Summer Programs Registration is currently open but will close on June 20, 2025.
- The iPrep School No. 8 Kindergarten Lottery Registration is currently open and will close on June 21, 2025
- Superintendent Hugelmeyer presented a series of slides showing the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies.

Monday, June 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

- George Washington Academy School No. 1
- Benjamin Franklin School No.13
- Abraham Lincoln School No. 14
- Madison – Monroe School No. 16
- Robert Morris School No. 18
- John Marshall School No .20
- Sonia Sotomayor School No .25
- Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27
- Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29

- Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30
- Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3
- Joseph Battin School No. 4
- Toussaint L’Overture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6
- Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- iPrep Academy School No. 8
- Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23
- Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

Tuesday, June 24th at 9:00 a.m.

- Winfield Scott School No.2
- Mabel G. Holmes School No.5
- Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9
- Elmora School No. 12
- Christopher Columbus School No.15
- Woodrow Wilson School No. 19
- Victor Mravlag School No. 21
- William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28

The Superintendent reminded everyone that all eight grade (8th) students are required to attend school through Tuesday 24, 2025. Diplomas will be issued on the last day.

Dr. Hugelmeyer showed an additional slide with High School Graduation/Class Award Ceremonies

- Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy – June 24th at 8:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 7:30 a.m.
- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy – June 24th at 11:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 10:30 a.m.
- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson STEM Academy – June 24th at 2:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 1:30 p.m.
- Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy – June 24th at 5:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 4:30 p.m.
- Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy – June 25th at 8:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 7:30 a.m.
- Thomas A Edison Career and Technical Academy -June 25th, at 11:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 10:30 a.m.
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy – June 25th at 2:30 p.m. with an arrival time at 1:30 p.m.
- J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy – June 24th at 5:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 4:30 p.m.

A series of slides were shown by Dr. Hugelmeyer that featured News From Central from the Inside EPS Newsletter.

On June 4th, the Elizabeth Public Schools and the City of Elizabeth, NJ set a Guinness World record for the Largest Human Image of a Submarine. An official judge from Guinness World Records was on hand to verify the record and confirmed that Eight (800) Hundred students of Juan Pablo Duarte-Julian Marti School No.28 set a new world on the school's turf field. The students came together with support from members of the Elizabeth Public School learning community, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, The Elizabeth Destination Marketing Organization, members of the Elizabeth Board of Education, and City of Elizabeth dignitaries. Other prominent members in attendance included USS New Jersey Commissioning Committee officials Pete Engel man and Tim Doelger.

Elizabeth Public Schools was among 935 districts across 44 states honored with the BESR Communities for Music (BCME) designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The BCME designation recognizes and celebrates outstanding efforts by school districts that have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Districts that have been selected as a BCME by the NAMM Foundation, now in its 26th year, are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs. The Elizabeth Public Schools music community has now received the BCME distinction for the sixth year in a row and the ninth time overall.

William F. Halloran School No. 22 and Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 were among 71 Schools throughout the United States to be recognized as a 2025 National School of Character by Character.org

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development, which has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate.

Since its inception, the National Schools of Character program has impacted over three million students, staff, parents and community members. The schools and districts that apply must meet the rigorous standards articulated in Character.org's 11 Principles Framework for Schools: A Guide to Cultivating a Culture of Character. Each school is assessed by a team of trained evaluators.

Elizabeth Public Schools is home to twelve district schools that have been designated as state schools of character, nine of which received national school of character honors as well. School No. 22 has become the sixth district school to have received National School of Character honors twice and School No. 28 has become the first district school to have received the distinction a third time.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Center School No. 52's "Sharing is Caring" program was among 230 Promising Practices in schools and organizations certified by Character.org for 2025.

Character.org was founded in 1993, and formerly is a worldwide network of educators, researchers, and civic leaders that empowers people of all ages to practice and model the character strengths and core values that shape the hearts, minds, and choices of every person.

This year, Character.org received applications that focuses on a wide range of practices which included peer mentoring, providing service-learning opportunities for students that connect to what they are learning in the classroom , empowering student voice and leadership, encouraging students to "do the right things" for intrinsic rather than extrinsic reasons, and programs that create

a caring school community where everyone feels they belong. Many of the Promising Practices also involve parents and the local community.

School No.52 was among 35 New Jersey schools to be recognized by Character.org as a school with a promising practice.

Students from Elizabeth Public Schools participated in Youth in City Government Day , an event sponsored by Elizabeth City Council and Elizabeth Board of Education that offers a glimpse into the day-to-day operations of the municipal government and school district and the services they provide to the Elizabeth community. The students began their day at the City Council Chamber of Elizabeth City Hall where they became honorary city officials during a morning conference. The morning also included visiting the James P Mitchell Building, the central offices of the Elizabeth Board of Education, going on a city tour, and learning about the history of Elizabeth. The young officials were given the opportunity to learn job responsibilities from their city and educational mentors.

In the afternoon, the students attended a luncheon at Dolce Restaurant where the speakers included Fourth (4th) Ward City Councilman and City Council President, Carlos Cedeno, City of Elizabeth Councilman -at-Large Manny Grova, Jr., Union County Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Sergio Granados, the Honorable Mayor of Elizabeth, J. Christian Bollwage, and Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer. The day concluded with the students returning to City Council Chamber where they served as representatives for their assigned city officials in a City Council Meeting. All participating students were presented with certificates of merit.

At the Youth in City Government luncheon, Mayor Bollwage presented the annual Youth of the Year Award to Emely Herrera, a senior at Elizabeth High School-Frank J Cicarell Academy. The Youth of the Year Award has been presented during each Youth and City Government Day to recognize a distinguished student for their community service and school leadership endeavors. Herrera is a AP Capstone scholar athlete and member of the National Honor Society at EHS-FJC. She has served as the Elizabeth Board of Education student representative from EHS-FJC for the 2024-2025 school year in addition to serving as president of the student government and captain of the Speech and Debate Team. She played varsity soccer in the fall and conducts bible study at her church. In March Emely was named a Union County Unsung Hero.

The top 100 students from the graduating Class of 2025 and Governor's Educators of the Year from Elizabeth Public Schools were honored at the 32nd Annual Academic Excellence Awards Dinner at the Westwood in Garwood on May 22. Among those to speak at the event were New Jersey assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Union County Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman, Lourdes Leon, City of Elizabeth Mayor, J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth Board of Education President Stanley J. Neron, Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent, Dr Olga Hugelmeyer, Mistress of Ceremonies Sandra Toll, and current Class of 2025 No. 1 overall ranked student Sebastain Sicua Villa from Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

Twenty-Four (24) Elizabeth Public Schools high school students were honored by the Rotary Club of Elizabeth at the annual Albert and Louise Davis Scholarship Award Luncheon. As part of a two-day event at the Garden Restaurant in Union. The 24 honorees from the Class of 2025 were awarded \$ 49,000 in scholarships. Among those in attendance were City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Rotary Club of Elizabeth Representative Ken Richuso, Elizabeth Board of Education President Stanley J Neron, EBOE Vice President Maria Z. Carvalho, EBOE Member Isaias J. Rivera, and EPS Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Cedeno.

Since 1986, the Albert and Louise Davis Scholarship Fund of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth has awarded a total of \$850,000 to 500 deserving students of Elizabeth's high schools.

On June 4, the Bilingual & ESL Department proudly hosted the third annual Elizabeth Public Schools Multicultural Festival at the Thomas G. Dunns Sports Center. This dynamic celebration brought together the entire district learning community in a colorful showcase of global cultures and traditions. Every EPS school contributed to the immersive experience by transforming their spaces into lifelike cultural landscapes. School displays came alive with vibrant posters, intricate student artwork, and authentic decorations that reflected the rich heritage of countries around the world. With over 600 attendees, the festival was a resounding success – a true celebration while taking a “Journey Through Time and Cultures”.

Both Board President Mr. Neron and Superintendent Dr. Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, to present The Self-Assessment of the District's Performance under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Mr. DiDonato explained how the Elizabeth Public School are graded in the implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

- Rubric was developed, by the State, to aid districts in assessing schools' efforts and improving them.
- Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABR) programs.
- The Rubric consists of Eight (8) Core Elements and 26 indicators.
- Each indicator can receive a score of 0-3 points.
- The Rubric is designed to be a growth model intended to enhance district/school programs and implementation(s).

The Eight Core Elements of the Self-Assessment

- 1) Programs, Approaches, Initiatives.
 - The school annually establishes HIB programs, approaches and initiatives.
 - The school annually implements and documents HIB programs, approaches or other initiatives.
 - The school annually assesses HIB programs, approaches or other initiatives, and are designed to create school-wide conditions to prevent and address HIB.
 - The school's HIB programs, approaches or other initiatives are designed to create school-wide conditions to prevent and address HIB.
 - The School Safety team (SST) has identified patterns of HIB and reviewed school climate and school policies for the prevention of HIB.
- 2) Training on BOE HIB Policy.
 - School Employees, contracted service providers, are provided training on the HIB policy.
 - The HIB policy training includes instruction on preventing HIB on the basis of protected categories enumerated in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights and other distinguishing characteristics that may incite incidents of discrimination or HIB.
 - The HIB policy was discussed with students, in accordance with the district's process for these discussions.

3) Other Staff Instruction and Training Programs

- Each teaching staff member completed at least two (2) hours of instruction in suicide prevention that included information on HIB, in each five-year professional development period.
- Each teaching staff member completed at least two (2) hours of instruction on HIB prevention, in each five-year professional development period.
- The school anti-bullying specialist (ABS) was given time during the usual school schedule to participate in -service training in preparation as to act as the ABS.
- The members of the school safety team (SST) were provided with professional development in effective practices of successful school climate programs or approaches.
- School leaders have received information on the prevention of harassment, intimidation and bullying as part of their training on issues of school ethics, school law and school governance.

4) Curriculum and Instruction on HIB and Related Information and Skills

- The school provided ongoing, age-appropriate instruction on preventing HIB in accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
- The school observed the “Week of Respect”, during the week beginning with the first Monday in October recognizing the importance of character education by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on HIB prevention.

5) HIB Personnel

- The Principal appointed a school Anti-Bullying Specialist (ABS).
- The ABS met at least two times per school year with the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator (ABC).
- The School Safety Team (SST) met at least two times per school year.

6) School Level Incident Reporting Procedure

- The school implemented the district’s procedure for reporting HIB that includes all required elements.
- The school implemented the district’s procedure for reporting new information on a prior HIB report.

7) HIB Investigation Procedure – The school followed the BOE -approved policy on HIB investigation procedures which provides for:

- Notification to parents of alleged offenders and alleged victims in each reported HIB incident.
- Completion of the investigation within ten (10) school days of the written incident report.
- Preparation of a written report on the findings of each HIB investigation.
- Results of the investigation were reported to the chief school administrator (CSA) within two (2) school days of completion of the investigation.

8) HIB Reporting

- The school has a procedure for ensuring that staff member reports (i.e., verbal and written) include the required information for all incidents of violence, vandalism and HIB.
- The district posts all HIB assessment scores on their web site.

Scoring Ranges and Parameters for Scoring

- 0-Does not meet the requirements.
- 1-Partially meets the requirements.
- 2-Meets all requirements.
- 3-Exceeds the requirements.

The highest possible score is 78 – this means that Every Indicator exceeded the requirements.

- A score of 52 indicates that on average, the indicators have been met.
- Elizabeth Public Schools' scores ranged from 62 to 78.
- All 37 schools scored 62 or higher.
- The average score across all schools was 70, which is up from 68 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Self-Assessment Process/Requirements

- Complete the Assessment.
- Input the information onto NJDOE website.
- Present the results to the public.
- Obtain approval from the Board of Education.
- Obtain Superintendent's assurances.
- Submit the Self-Assessments to NJDOE.

Scoring Notes

- A score of 52 indicates that on average, the indicators have been met.
- Our school scores ranged from 62 to 78.
- All 37 schools scored a 62 or higher.
- The average score across all schools was 70, which is up from 68 for the 2022-2023 school year.

HIB Self-Assessment School Grades for the 2023-2024 School year.

- Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25 – Score of 78.
- Terrence C. Reilly School No. 7 – Score of 77.
- Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 – Score of 76.
- Juan Pablo Duarte – Jose Julian Marti No. 28 -Score of 76.
- Elmora School No. 12 – Score of 75.
- Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 -score of 74.
- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy -Score of 74.
- Donald Stewart School No. 51 – Score of 73.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 52 – Score of 73.

- William F. Halloran School No.- 22- Score of 73.
- Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 - Score of 72.
- Christopher Columbus School No. 15 – Score of 72.
- George Washington School No 1 – Score of 72.
- Mabel G Holmes School No. 5 - Score of 72.
- Toussaint L'Ouverture- Marquis De Lafayette School No. 6 – Score of 72.
- Victor Mravlag School No. 21 – Score of 71.
- Winfield Scott School No. 2 -Score of 71.
- Frances C Smith School No. 50 – Score of 70.
- John Marshall School No. 20 - Score of 70.
- Joseph Battin School No. 4 - Score of 70.
- Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 – Score of 70.
- Madison – Monroe School No. 16 – Score of 69.
- Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No 26 – Score of 68.
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy – Score of 68.
- Jerome Dunn Academy – School No. 9 – score of 68.
- Nicholas S. LaCorte -Peterstown School No. 3 - score of 68.
- Woodrow Wilson- School No 19. Score of 68.
- J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy – Score of 67.
- Admiral William Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy – Score of 66.
- Dr. Antonio Pantoja - School No. 27-Score of 66.
- Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy – Score of 66.
- Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy – Score of 65.
- Dr. Albert Einstein Academy - School No. 29 – Score of 65.
- Thomas Jefferson Academy -Score of 65.
- iPrep academy – School No. 8 - Score of 64.
- Robert Morris – School No. 18 – Score of 62.
- District Average 70.

Mr. DiDonato presented a slide showing the work the District is focusing on now:

- Analyze Self-Assessments by School.
- Ensuring ongoing parental involvement on our School Safety/ Climate Teams for all our schools.
- Focus on training School Safety /Climate Teams in improving school climate at all schools.
- Focus on providing the most effective and appropriate interventions and consequences for each HIB investigation.
- Implementing and proactively addressing SEL/HIB/Character Education in person and virtual programming for all schools.
- Panorama Education -SEL Program Expanded and continuing in all 37 Schools.

Mr. Jacobs asked if the H.I.B report that had been just presented to the audience was available to Board Members. Dr. Hugelmeyer replied that it had been sent earlier in the day and was available on the Board Drive.

Mr. Neron commenced a review of the Evening's Agenda.

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (May 7th, 2025) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (April 30, 2025) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2 a) Personnel Report – Mrs. Moreno-Ortega wanted to bring to the attention of the Board the number of retirements and the many years of service that were given to the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools by those retiring. One person in particular. Joanna Quaglia was retiring after 42.8 years.

Ms. Bathelus questioned why there was no teacher approved to translate Summer Programs documents into Haitian. Dr. Hugelmeyer explained that there were no teacher applicants, and the sole person approved was an Assistant. In addition, those listed as substitutes had only applied for substitute positions and had not been deferred from a full-time summer program translating position.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report(s) 2a was added to the Agenda.

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4) Superintendent's Reports were added to the Agenda.

Tab 4a) Considerations was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4b) Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4bb) Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4c) Field Trips was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4d) HIB Report was added to the Agenda.

Tabs 5a and Tab 5b) Authorizations Report.

Mrs. Carvalho asked that the wording be changed on the fourth item from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the Union County Board of County Commissioners. This was noted and would be changed before official posting.

Tabs 5a and Tab 5b) Authorizations Report were added to the Agenda.

Tab 6 and 6a) Finance and Accounting Report/Transfer of Funds - Mrs. Carvalho inquired if the monies being paid to Egenolf Early Childhood Center was the final payment. Mr. Kennedy replied that the payment was the final for the 2024/2025 School Year. The next payment would be charged against the 2025/2026 Budget.

Tab 6 and 6a) Finance and Accounting Report/Transfer of Funds was added to the Agenda.

Tab 7) Award of Contracts Report – Mrs. Moreno-Ortega inquired in regard to the contract listed on page four (4) with Avid Center whether all schools are now working to implement Avid methodologies? Dr. Hugelmeyer responded in the affirmative. Board Member Moreno-Ortega then asked about the contract with Allegheny Educational Services and which school would be receiving their services. Mr. Etienne, Director of Curriculum and Instruction replied that it would be Thomas Edison Career and Technical Academy as the Ignite program combined technology and manufacturing. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega wanted to make parents and community members aware that the District is renewing a contract with Go Guardian which shows the Board’s commitment to keep students safe while using computer technology and social media. This includes real-time monitoring of technology during tests, quizzes and other classroom technology. In addition, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega also highlighted a contract with Lexia Systems, Inc., that enhances educator capacity and instructional effectiveness in teaching reading skills. It is imperative that our younger students establish a firm foundation in core reading strengths. Mrs. Carvalho asked whether the Contract with Metropolitan Foods DBA Driscoll Foods had a rollover option or a new contract? Mr. Kennedy explained this was a new contract with the prior year provider. He explained that Driscoll Foods was the sole bidder for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Carvalho asked the same question about the contract with Jerusalem Distribution found on page 7. Mr. Kennedy replied that this contract had numerous bidders and Jerusalem Distribution was the lowest bidder among those providers who met all the specifications that the District required. Other vendors that appeared to have lower pricing had either price discrepancies and/or failed to bid on all items needed. In response to another question from Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Kennedy explained that the Contract with Malachy Mechanical found on page eight (8) was a renewal as it was the final option year on a three (3) year contract. Mrs. Carvalho’s final question was directed at Mr. Marsal, Chief Technology Officer for the Elizabeth School District on the decision to renew the contract with SHI International Corporation. Mr. Marsal explained that this contract was the renewal of the Commvault Backup Systems which provides backup capabilities for all the servers and data within our operating systems. Mrs. Cheveres asked for clarification concerning the contract with Progressive Therapy of New Jersey. Dr. Ojeda, Director of Special Services, explained that this it was extra support for the entire department (BCBA/FBA) for the Autistic and D & C programs.

Tab 7) Award of Contracts Report was added to the Agenda

Mr. Neron asked the Board Committee Chairmen to present their reports for the month.

Negotiations Committee

May 16, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Negotiations Committee; Charlene Bathelus, Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra, Assistant Business Administrator, Dieter Lerch and Julius Consoni, Financial Consultants.

The Committee was briefed on the ongoing negotiations meetings with the EEA. The discussion included offers, counter offers, and three-year cost out of proposals.

Negotiations Committee

June 16, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Stan Neron, Board President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Negotiations Committee; Charlene Bathelus, Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra, Assistant Business Administrator, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, Dieter Lerch, Financial Consultants.

The Committee was briefed on the ongoing negotiations meetings with the EEA and EASC. The discussion included offers, counter offers and three-year cost out of proposals.

Finance and Accounting Committee

June 11, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Stan Neron, Board President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana Board Member, Isaias Rivera Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Michael Simitz, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, Rajeev Malhotra, Assistant School Business Administrator, George Mouded, Insurance Consultant, Pattie Fahy, Insurance Broker, Dieter Lerch and Julius Consoni, Financial Consultants.

Pattie Fahy, Insurance Broker presented the marketing results of carriers for property and liability insurance. Recommendations for the renewal of the property and casualty insurance package effective July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2026, were discussed and the recommendation was to place the renewals on the agenda for the June 17th, 2025, meeting. Lastly, Dieter Lerch and Julius Consoni presented the three-year cost out of proposals with the EEA and EASC

Tab 9) Claims List. –

Mrs. Moreno asked about the uniform charges starting on page thirty-one (31). It was explained that this was individual reimbursement (s) for uniform shoes etc., incurred by staff members per the Union contract.

Tab 9) Claims list was added to the Agenda

Resolutions 10 through 10ss with the exception of Resolution 10Q were added to the agenda. Mrs. Goncalves Pestana asked that Resolution 10 Q be discussed in Private Session.

Mr. Neron stated that the President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of:

Legal Matters – specifically, Workman's Compensation M.L.S, I.P., J.G., I.A., D.R., D.M., and S.D., Legal Settlement M.F.D. vs. EBOE.

Personnel Matters – Personnel Report, Settlement L.H., Retirement Payment J.L.,

Board Authorizations Report – AVID Summer Institute

The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Chevres to go into private session at 7:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messers. Rivera, Neron. - 9

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus left the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mrs. Carvalho to return to public session at 10:53 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messer's Rivera, Neron – 9

Negative - None

The following items were added to the Agenda:

- Resolution- Settlement Agreement M.C.F.D. and M.V.D.F. vs. EBOE
- Resolution- Settlement of Workers Compensation Case D.M.
- Resolution – Settlement of Workers Compensation Case S.D.
- Personnel Report 2B
- Resolution Agreement L.H.
- Board Authorization – Avid Summer Institute
- Resolution - 10 Q ESS Substitute Services
- Resolution – 10yy Increment Withholding Performance Certified Personnel L.D., A.K.H., J.E.K.
- Resolution - 10zz Increment Withholding Performance Non-Certified Personnel K.J.B., Q.G., B.Q.F., M.M.L., A.J.P.

Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer presented the H.I.B report for the May Board Meeting.

1.) Pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, 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 the investigation and include: 1) Any services provided; 2) Training established; 3) Discipline imposed; or 4) Other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator.”

2.) Since our last Board of Education meeting on May 7, 2025, and through June 11, 2025, our school counselors, school based social workers, deputy attorney and Supervisor of Anti-Bullying have completed 61 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 25 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 28 males, 43 females, 64 regular education students and 7 special education students that were the alleged victims. There were 58 males, 34 females, 75 regular education students, 14 special education students and 3 non-students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 25 cases Founded for HIB, 5 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 2 cases were Founded based on Color, 1 case was Founded based on Religion, 4 cases were Founded based on Sexual Orientation, 2 cases were Founded based on Gender, 1 case was Founded based on a Mental, Physical or Sensory Disability and 20 cases were Founded based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 19 skill development lessons/trainings, 50 counseling sessions, 3 behavioral interventions, 7 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 5 changes of classroom, 2 changes of school placement, 4 administrative counseling sessions, 10 in school detentions, 45 parent conferences, 5 referrals to outside agencies, 1 professional development session, 28 out of school suspensions, and 8 cases are continuing to be monitored.

3.) The HIB statute further requires that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after board members receive the initial report of HIB investigations, that the Board issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent's decision pertaining to the 25 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on May 7, 2025. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations which were reported to you at the last board meeting, have been provided for your review prior to voting.

Mr. Neron asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (May 7, 2025)

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (April 30, 2025)

Personnel Reports

Tuitions Reports

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Reports

Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Claims List

Resolutions:

Adoption of New, Revised Policies, Regulation and Bylaw

Colombia's Independence Day

Gun Violence Awareness Month

Juneteenth Independence Day
Property and Casualty Insurance Package 2025-2026
Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Capital Reserve
Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Maintenance Reserve
Approval of Submission of EBOE Mitchell Building HVAC Upgrades
Approval of Submission of School No. 26 HVAC Upgrades
Approval of Submission of Edison Academy New Process Technology Classroom
Approval of Submission of iPrep Academy School No. 8 Electrical Services Upgrades
Approval of Submission of Madison Monroe School No. 16 Electrical Services Upgrades
Approval of Submission of Edison Academy Gymnasium & Locker Room HVAC Upgrades
U.C.E.S.C. 2025-2026 Environmental Safety Program
Rental of a School Building - 1096 North Avenue
Rental of a School Building – 717 Polonia Avenue
Rental of a School Building – 250 East Jersey Street
Approving Addendum to Extend Agreement Between EBOE and ESS Northeast, LLC
Workshop Reimbursement
Appointing D&H – Third Party Administrator 2025-2026 School Year
Appointing First MCO – Managed Care 2025-2026 School Year
Approval of Submission of School No. 27 Flood Mitigation
Renew Contract with Malachy Mechanical for 2025-2026 School Year
Appointing Metropolitan Foods (Driscoll Foods) – Fresh, Frozen, Dry Grocery Items
Appointing Sam Tell & Son, Inc. – Cafeteria Small Equipment
Renew Contract with Royal Printing – District Printing and Mailing
Renew Contract with Royal Printing – District Publications
Appointing Metropolitan Foods (Driscoll Foods) – Processed Commodity
Appointing On-Fleet Service, Inc. – Small-Midsize Trucks
Appointing On-Fleet Service, Inc. – Large Trucks
Appointing Jerusalem Distribution, Inc. (Metrostar Food Service) – Cafeteria Paper Products
Appointing Stepping Stones, LLC – Speech Therapy
Appointing ESS – Speech Therapy
Appointing Children’s Specialized Hospital – Physical & Occupational Therapy
Appointing Homecare Therapies (Horizon Healthcare) - Individual Nursing Special Education
Appointing Northeast Interior Services – Flood Mitigation School No. 27
Appointing FT Partners (Interim Healthcare) – School Trips and School Nurses
Appointing Homecare Therapies (Horizon Healthcare) – School Trips and School Nurses
Appointing Towne School Nurses, LLC – School Trips and School Nurses Subs
Appointing Fall 2025 Sports Companies
Approval of Submission School No. 12 Safety Cage
Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
Payment for Unused Sick Days
Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Appointing Janitorial Supply Companies
Settlement Workers’ Comp – D.M.
Settlement Workers’ Comp – S.D.
Settlement Workers’ Comp – S.D.
Settlement Agreement – L.H.
Settlement Agreement – M.C.F.D. & M.V.D.F.
Increment Withholding Performance - Certified

Increment Withholding Performance – Non-Certified

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to approve the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Carvalho, (with an abstention Tab4b Item #1 City of Eliz. Dept of Rec use of school 14, Tab4b Item# 2 City of Eliz Dept of HHS use of Schools 1 &9 5 classrooms and pool etc., Tab4b Item#3 City of Eliz Dept of HHS School # 23 Classrooms, gym etc., Tab4b Item #4 City of Elizabeth Dept of Rec., use of School 21 Classrooms, Gym, etc., Tab4b Item# 5 City of Eliz Dept of Rec use of School 27 Classrooms, Gym., etc., Tab 4b Item # 6 City of Eliz Dept of Rec use of EHS – FJC Classrooms Gym, etc. Tab 5 Item #1 agreement between EBOE and City of Eliz Dept of Rec. to provide Food Services, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, with an abstention Item# 4 authorization to accept award from Union County Board of Conty Comm.) Messers. Rivera, Neron (with an abstention on Tab 2a Pg 43 Administrator Apex Recovery Prog. Donald Dulorie) Tab4b Item #1 City of Eliz. Dept of Rec use of school 14, Tab4b Item# 2 City of Eliz Dept of HHS use of Schools 1 &9 5 classrooms and pool etc., Tab4b Item#3 City of Eliz Dept of HHS School # 23 Classrooms, gym etc., Tab4b Item #4 City of Elizabeth Dept of Rec., use of School 21 Classrooms, Gym, etc., Tab4b Item# 5 City of Eliz Dept of Rec use of School 27 Classrooms, Gym., etc., Tab 4b Item # 6 City of Eliz Dept of Rec use of EHS – FJC Classrooms Gym, etc. Tab 5 Item #1 agreement between EBOE and City of Eliz Dept of Rec. to provide Food Services) -8

Negative: none

On a motion made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Dr. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m..

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messers. Rivera, Neron-8

Negative: none

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