

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

June 27, 2013
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on June 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at the Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, 919 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Mr. Monteiro welcomed everyone to one of our top schools, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 and thanked Principal Linda Seniszyn, Vice Principal John Mellody and the teachers, support staff, custodians, food service workers, and security guards who work day in and day out to make this a wonderful school. Mr. Monteiro thanked the parents and students who work hard every day and because of the outstanding work that is taking place not only here but throughout the district we are now the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for participating here tonight and stated that we have taken the initiative to have the Board meetings in different schools because it is so important for the parents and residents throughout the City of Elizabeth to see these wonderful facilities and the hard work that is going on in the schools. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are proud to announce that our largest graduating class ever with 1,068 students graduated yesterday from our high schools.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:30 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 Friday, June 21, 2013. 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 June 27, 2013 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 (arr. 8:30 p.m.), Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Board President Tony Monteiro introduced the members of the Board of Education present including Vice President Elcy Castillo-Ospina, Stefano Calella, Francisco González, Fernando Nazco, Anthony Padlo, Paul Perreira, and Carlos Trujillo.

Mr. Monteiro spoke of the devastating loss this past week of two of our team members, Elizabeth Lawson, LDTC at George Washington School No. 1 and Paul Casale, Art Teacher at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and called for a moment of silence.

Dr. William Greene gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Willexis Matos, eighth grade student at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Roodlyn Valme, eighth grade student at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Nyasia Hawley, eighth grade student at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this is what we consider to be the favorite part and we take time from our meeting to appreciate and recognize our young talented students from throughout our district. Mr. Monteiro stated that we also are recognizing the students, staff, and parents for all the hard work and recognition that you deserve for helping to make us the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and soon with the leadership of his fellow colleagues on this Board we are going to become the best school district in America with the help of all of you.

Mr. Monteiro introduced fourth through eighth grade students from Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 who performed *You Make Me Wanna Jump* by Ruppe. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of STEAM prepared by the STEAM Broadcasting Class at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 who performed *Greased Lightnin* and *Beauty School Dropout* from the musical Grease by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Trujillo stated that students and staff from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 put on their first production, *Grease*, and the students had a great time and learned a lot.

Mr. Monteiro introduced the Principal of Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 Sulisnet Jimenez and Vice Principals Nancy Georgette and Joan Tomek.

Mr. Padlo stated that students from throughout our district recently competed in the New Jersey State Police Top Physical Challenge 2013 which is a boot camp style fitness test held for selected physical education students. Mr. Padlo stated that the importance of physical fitness and staying healthy is stressed as students are encouraged to do their personal best. Mr. Padlo introduced the following students for meeting this physical challenge and exhibiting excellence including Jeremiah Gullien and Alex Sanchez, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Jonathan Colon, Daniel Paixao, and Joel Santos, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Lenin Betancor, Franco Cunha, Herney Echevery, Naydelin Ferro, Jimmy Gonzalez, Ramon Jimenez, Jaime Martinez, Luis Martinez, Marina Perreira, Kevin Patino, Gaton Posse, Jan Rosas, Chris Richardson, Emilie Rios, Taliyah Whitehead, and Jalon Wright, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Jason Miller and Lenny Coleman, John Marshall School No. 20; Beatrice Ariza, Diana Bonilla, Caren Barbajal, Sebastian Cruz, Raziel Julvese, Katherine Espinal, Melissa Fernandes, Andrew Flores, Deiontay Hall, Keyla Hernandez, Oscar Hilario, Tiffany Kensah, Jaquill Lovett, Andrew Martins, Joseph Navarro, Emily Oliveira, Kevyn Pagan, Kevin Privado, Yonis Romero, Joshua Rosado, Chabely Silva, Michelle Velez, Jesiah West, Amaiyah Washington, and Ray-Quan Williams, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Jean Amilcar, Juan Betancourt, Antony Bryant, Zaire Gilliam, Shawn Hurd, Umar Nasim, and Christian Paguda, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; Sylvester Ali, Julian Castaneda, Luis Marmol, Danny Polo, and Julian Soto, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy. Mr. Padlo and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the following team members from Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 have displayed a commitment to excellence and dedication to student achievement. Mr. Trujillo introduced Francisca Alvarado, Nicholas Carmazino, Mary Elizabeth Clarke, Kathleen Clavin, Charmara Davis, Kadejah Davis, Tracy Espiritu, Anna Farina, William Glynn, Aurora Guas, Nancy Kenely, Joanmarie Korn, Evalyn Leonard, Johm Mellody, Doris Moskowitz, Jessica Perez, Rui Reguinho, Diana Rivera, Susan Rodriguez, Zainab Salaam, Craig Webb and LaTony Williams. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo introduced Principal Linda Seniszyn.

Principal Linda Seniszyn stated that it is definitely the people who make Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 so special and there is a culture here that these people have created by dedicating so much of their spare time and family time that they give back to our students. Mrs. Seniszyn stated that the teachers come in all summer to keep up the greenhouse, the school received Silver and Bronze status from the Healthy Alliance Foundation and the staff gives so many hours beyond the regular day going way above and beyond and that makes it so special here and wonderful things are happening here.

Mr. Trujillo thanked Mrs. Seniszyn and stated that every good school has a great leader and we have a great leader here and that's what it is about.

Mr. Monteiro recognized the following parents/guardians for their dedication and continued support and stated that they have contributed their time through various school programs, parent meetings, workshops, and fundraising activities and their involvement is an example for others who want to make a difference in their children's education. Mr. Monteiro introduced Isna Encarnacion, Karina Hoyos, Julene Monroe, and Armstrong Mertyl. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this is what makes a difference and thanked the parents for their commitment to this school and urged the parents not to stop because it is important.

Board President Tony 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, Pia Carbajal, to address the Board.

Ms. Carbajal, 19 Dehart Place, thanked the Board for their help at Joseph Battin School No. 4 and stated that her daughter was selected to attend iPrep Academy School No. 8. Ms. Carbajal stated that there are wonderful schools in the district and for the Board members to please remember the neighborhood schools and to consider that School No. 4 needs a guidance counselor and security guard.

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

Mr. Monteiro thanked Ms. Carbajal for her comments.

Mr. Trujillo stated that after last week’s meeting Ms. Carbajal and he had a great telephone conversation and he was telling Ms. Carbajal that he wished more parents had the passion for education that she has and she is really special. Mr. Trujillo stated that he lives in the neighborhood near iPrep Academy School No. 8 and it is a small space, there is a lot of demand for it, and so many parents are excited about that school. Mr. Trujillo congratulated Ms. Carbajal and her daughter on the opportunity she is going to have at that school and for her courage that she demonstrates by advocating for her and other children. Mr. Trujillo stated that School No. 4 is going to miss her and he doesn’t know who will fill the void but knowing Ms. Carbajal she will probably try to do both. Mr. Trujillo wished them both luck and stated that should he be of assistance he will be more than happy to help.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2013 be accepted.

Ms. Bathelus stated that at the last Board meeting she asked about the elevator and Mr. Kennedy said there was a new vendor but she went to Halsey and there is no one working on it.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the new vendor was hired and they are waiting for parts to come and the work will be completed this summer.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

Mr. Nazco asked what the difference is between the original page and the amended page received.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz explained that the original just had June 1, 2013 and the revision is for the time period June 1 through June 30, 2013 since the certification issues were resolved. Mr. Munoz stated that they were notified in May whether they were renewed or not renewed.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira (abstain- M.P.), Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo stated that when we pay for the out-of-district tuitions one of the excellent benefits that we provide our citizens through our Elizabeth Board of Education is the ability to find the opportunities for the children who have special needs. Mr. Trujillo stated that often we contract with people outside our district who are specialized and provide the help that we can't provide in-district. Mr. Trujillo stated that every child deserves a great education and every opportunity to learn and unfortunately we can't provide all especially to the real serious cases. Mr. Trujillo wants the parents to know that he will never support eliminating any of these programs as long as there is a child who needs this education and money should not be the issue when it comes to special needs.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

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

Mr. Trujillo stated that he is going to ask his colleagues to accept the request from the New Jersey State Police who have requested to hold their graduations in our facility. Mr. Trujillo stated that at the Perfect Scores Rally we had several guests and among them was Attorney General Chiesa who is currently serving as U.S. Senator and also State Police Major General Lewis. Mr. Trujillo stated that they were so impressed with the facility and the ability for us to

hold so many people in there. Mr. Trujillo stated they are requesting to hold the prestigious graduation of the State Troopers there and it is a great honor to be able to host such a prestigious event. Mr. Trujillo hopes that they can all vote in the affirmative to show that they support the State Police and all law enforcement.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated that tonight he is reporting on the excellent news and activities that have occurred in the Elizabeth Public Schools since our last board meeting including that the Elizabeth High School Orchestra received gold ranking at the Big Apple Classic Music Festival, EHS guidance counselor to participate in Harvard Summer Institute, students from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 participated in Law Day at the Union County Courthouse, EHS sophomore Jonathan Hernandez and his team from across the country won the Real World/In World Design Challenge and was invited to the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, seven high school seniors were recipients of \$1,000. Gateway Scholarships and four were recipients of \$500. Healthy Leap Scholarships, students in the Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 Middle School Band Program placed first in the Music in the Parks Festival, A Strings Night Out at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, ten sophomores represented each academy at the yearly RUBY Business Plan Competition, students from the Academy of Finance at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy visited the National Mall in Washington, D.C., students at Robert Morris School No. 18 presented Alice in Wonderland, fifteen EHS students received a total of \$22,500. from the Albert & Louise Davis Scholarship Fund of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth, students in the William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 Choir and Band placed first in many categories in the Festivals of Music Competition, students in the Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Musical Notes and Girls' Choir placed first in the Dorney Park Competition, Family Fun 5K Run/Walk at Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31 and William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, students in the Elizabeth High School Orchestra participated in the East Brunswick New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Festival, and Artist in Residence Deborah Goletz and the school community of Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 created a mosaic mural. Mr. Muñoz stated that you can continue to follow the excellent news on our website, www.epsnj.org.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Muñoz for his report.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter Into Contract, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo – 5

Abstain: Messrs. Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 3

Negative: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report – Change Orders

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo – 6

Abstain: Messrs. Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 3

Negative: None

Resolution – N.J.S.I.A.A. Membership 2012-2013

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Environmental Safety Program 2013-2014

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – New School Attendance and Lines

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

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated that tonight he is presenting to the Board for their consideration the new district lines for School Nos. 21, 12, and 27. Mr. Muñoz stated that the proposed lines were reviewed by Board committee and recommended to the full Board. Mr. Muñoz stated that under the leadership of President Monteiro we will be opening a new school, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, for September. Mr. Muñoz stated that the new school will replace the old neighborhood school that existed there and we are happy that it will be opening for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Muñoz stated that in preparation for the opening we wanted to adjust the district lines. Mr. Muñoz stated that the current lines for School No. 21 are for a student population that would be smaller than the capacity of the new school building and we shifted the lines into the existing School No. 12 zone so we could have an enrollment of at least 500 students going to the new School No. 21. Mr. Muñoz stated that we kept the enrollment of School No. 12 to about 700 students and we were able to lower the enrollment size for School No. 27 by taking some of the students from the School No. 27 zone and shifting them to the School No. 12 zone. Mr. Muñoz stated that his hope is that the Board will approve this and then the district will start to send out letters in July announcing to the community that they belong to School No. 21 zone or if they were in School No. 27 zone they may now be in School No. 12 zone.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Muñoz for his comments.

Mr. Padlo stated that he grew up in that neighborhood and attended School No. 21 and it was great then. Mr. Padlo stated that he reviewed the lines a while ago during the committee meetings and redoing the lines is going to open the school for about 200 additional children who are going to have the opportunity to attend a brand new school. Mr. Padlo stated that the Board and administration has worked very hard over the past few years to have this school finally be able to open in September and the parents are going to be happy especially to have their children attend this new school. Mr. Padlo stated that having as many children as possible attend the new school is great for the neighborhood.

Mr. Monteiro commended Mr. Padlo for his hard work on this project. Mr. Monteiro stated that over the years this project has been started and stopped and it has been hard work to get this school to completion. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Padlo who has been working on this tirelessly for the past several months with the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, the

Properties Committee, and administration and making phone calls and being on top of this project. Mr. Monteiro stated that now we have the assurances that the school is going to finally open. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Padlo for staying on top of it and being so involved with this project.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it has been a long time coming and unfortunately it has taken a lot longer than we would have liked. Mr. Trujillo stated that the State's old way of building schools with the structure they had used in the past was full of corruption and a very dysfunctional bureaucracy. Mr. Trujillo stated fortunately for us this new administration has taken a lead to make sure that this school finally opens. Mr. Trujillo stated that he remembers prior to being elected to his first term he attended a ceremony there where they broke ground and at his first properties committee meeting they asked why they wanted to keep the façade to this building and that was a big hold up. Mr. Trujillo stated that they wanted to connect the old façade to the new building and that he never built a house but has been around construction in his family for a long time and when you try to join an old building to a new building that's hard and especially something of that magnitude. Mr. Trujillo stated that they were just stuck on that idea and it took a while and he couldn't understand what the frustration was and it seemed like a simple fix. Mr. Trujillo stated that the bureaucracy was so big just to get somebody to look at the plans again they would have to rebuild it and it was such a hard time. Mr. Trujillo stated that he remembers losing his temper with the State people several times and one time they threatened not to come if he was in the meeting. Mr. Trujillo stated that he got so upset with them because they couldn't give a common sense answer and that it was all sugar coated assuring everything. Mr. Trujillo stated that here we are on the verge of opening and anytime we are able to add class space to such a large district, we have nearly 23,000 children, it's a great achievement. Mr. Trujillo stated that you can go throughout the State of New Jersey and even the country and you would be hard-pressed to find a city like Elizabeth that has had so much success building so many new schools and rebuilding old schools and there is still a lot to go. Mr. Trujillo stated that in a city like Elizabeth where it is hard to find space available it really brings great joy to know this administration in Trenton is committed to urban school districts and the education of urban children. Mr. Trujillo stated that includes building schools and for those that don't know we broke ground on the new high school. Mr. Trujillo congratulated Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto and his staff because they know how to build schools and they learned the program and how the State wanted it and it wasn't for lack of trying but it was the State who kept holding this school up and unfortunately we couldn't control a lot of that. Mr. Trujillo stated that the parents in Elmora who have waited so long to finally have the reality that the school is going to open is great. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Monteiro and he were just at the 8th grade graduation for Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 and that school has really increased with so many children in that area and to know that we are going to be able to alleviate that is very good news. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is glad that we are going to expand the lines and give more children the opportunity to learn in such a great facility and now the school will be at home where it belongs and he can't wait because it has been a long, long time coming. Mr. Trujillo stated that the employees from the State that he used to yell at are probably not there anymore but he would like to yell at them once more because they made us wait so long and had they done their job we would have been here a long time ago.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro asked Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves to explain the notification to the students and parents about the schools.

Mr. Goncalves stated that next week we are sending out a communication that details the opening of Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Mr. Goncalves stated that we are taking the idea from the school board to set up a temporary mobile center which provides information to people in the community on a weekly basis starting July 10th every Wednesday through the opening of the school from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Mr. Goncalves stated that the Excellence I Mobile Unit will be on-site in front of the school on Shelly Avenue and there will be team members providing information to anyone that comes by to find out about the school or registration for their child. Mr. Goncalves stated that for residents who are in the School Nos. 12, 27 and 21 areas they will be receiving information from us about the new design of the district. Mr. Goncalves stated that this will help alleviate overcrowding at School Nos. 12 and 27.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the Mobile Center will be on Shelly Avenue in front of the school on Wednesdays beginning July 10th through the opening of school from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Mr. Monteiro stated that anyone who has questions or needs additional information can come to the Board of Education Mitchell Building and they will be more than happy to help you.

The second reading of the revised Acceptable Use for Technology – Electronic Mobile Device Regulation and Exhibit File Code 6142.10 was done.

Resolution – Revised Acceptable Use for Technology – Electronic Mobile Device Regulation and Exhibit File Code No. 6142.10

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, W.B. and J.T.; special education resolution L.S.; Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results; and workers' compensation claim, specifically, K.H. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to go into private session at 9:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

The Board reconvened in public at 10:15 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

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

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – L.H. o/b/o L.S.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Leave without pay effective June 21, 2013 – W.B.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Leave without pay effective June 21, 2013 – J.T.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2011-13702 – K.H.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she would like to introduce a resolution to display our district's communication signs.

Resolution – Authorize District Signage

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

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

Ms. Bathelus asked where this resolution is from and if it is from a committee.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the resolution is to approve the signage on the Elizabeth school board buses. Mr. Monteiro stated that currently there is signage on the buses and this is to change the signage and put additional signage on the buses.

Ms. Bathelus asked what kind of signage and if there is a display.

Mr. Goncalves stated that as the Board knows we have been undertaking a communications program which helps communicate the leadership of the Board as well as the

fact that we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and the fact that achievement continues to move up as a school district. Mr. Goncalves stated that the message in combination with the names of the Board members and other positive messages with regards to the school district is what we will be putting on our vehicles and on the sides of our buildings. Mr. Goncalves stated that we are lucky that we have banner machines in-house that do not cost any additional funds to the taxpayer. Mr. Goncalves stated that unlike other political, city, or county entities that might pay by sending things out to other businesses our team of people produce it in-house.

Mr. González stated that this is an extension of what we are already doing because we already have signs in our schools and on our buses.

Mr. Goncalves stated that as an organization we want to keep the community informed and the Board continuously involved in the communication to the community about what we are doing as a school district.

Ms. Bathelus asked if Mr. Goncalves will be providing a design as to what we are putting on the buses.

Mr. Goncalves stated that he can send the information.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Goncalves and team members for all the hard work that they do and many times we get criticized by those in City Hall about the banners. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is one of the greatest programs that we have undertaken here in the City of Elizabeth to pay tribute and recognition to all the hard work of not just what the teachers, staff, and all the administrators do here every day but the hard work of all the students. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is definitely showing to others in the State who notice our buses on school trips and comment that they didn't know that Elizabeth is the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that you can see it in the faces of the children during the parade and you can certainly see it in the smiles of the parents when they now know that we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that we cannot say it enough and we cannot shout it out loud enough every time we walk into one of our buildings and see that we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey with two nationally recognized high schools in the country and three National Blue Ribbon Schools. Mr. Monteiro stated that wherever he goes he can't say it enough and that is a credit to all of you and to all the students who work so hard. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is a great program and if you could put flags on all the buses and put billboards on the tops of the buildings he would say do that to give the students all the credit and recognition that they certainly deserve. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Goncalves for the banners and stated that we do them in-house and we get criticized by the Mayor and City Council for all the misinformation that is out there.

Mr. Goncalves stated that there are two distinct reasons why we continue the program. Mr. Goncalves stated that when people have pride in the school system it raises the value of people's property and pride in the community and that is the type of effect that you have had on the community. Mr. Goncalves stated that people are really proud of their schools and the high schools and the branding of it is very important. Mr. Goncalves stated that we also receive resumes from people in the region after they see the messages of us being the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Goncalves stated that it also helps improve the quality of instruction through hiring great teachers and great professionals who want to work in our district.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we are proud of all the work that goes on here and certainly a lot of it goes on behind the scenes. Mr. Monteiro thanked his fellow colleagues on the Board who

attended so many award ceremonies and graduation ceremonies throughout the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that he saw so much excitement and energy in the schools and the smiles on the faces of all the students for their achievements and awards. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is so happy to have been a part of it having been born and raised here in Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro commended the Board members who spend many hours at the numerous committee meetings and Board meetings with no pay and a lot of sacrifice. Mr. Monteiro stated that at the end of the day the results of what is going on in this school district speaks for itself and we have a great school system.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there will be a Colombian Day Parade on Sunday, June 30, 2013 and she is very honored to be the Grand Marshall. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the community is recognizing the hard work that we are doing with our students and our schools. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there will be dignitaries from Colombia and it will be a good opportunity for our community to learn about their heritage and culture. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there are multi-cultural programs in school and this is an extension of it to learn about people in different cultures. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the parade will begin at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Mr. Monteiro congratulated Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and stated that it is a great honor that the Colombian community is recognizing one of our outstanding Board members for all of her hard work. Mr. Monteiro invited everyone to attend another great parade that will take place here in the City of Elizabeth recognizing one of our finest Board members, Mrs. Elcy Castillo-Ospina.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to make a presentation and introduce a resolution. Mr. Trujillo asked for support for his proposed resolution.

Mr. Trujillo stated that recently the Star Ledger broke a story that affects all the taxpayers in the great State of New Jersey and he will get to the reason that this is important to Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that the corruption uncovered by the engineering firm of Birdsall Services Group showed it was an elaborate production to get contributions to politicians in special places to gain favor. Mr. Trujillo stated that the way it was done was that the company used its employees to write personal contributions to different political action committees and candidates and hoped to gain their favor to vote and give them work. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a very large engineering firm and it has been around for a while and from what he understands they have done this for a while and they got caught. Mr. Trujillo stated that from 2008 through 2012 Birdsall made more than 1,000 secret contributions worth more than \$1 million to candidates and political groups of all types and in all corners of the State according to the Star Ledger. Mr. Trujillo stated that the taxpayers should know about this and that it does affect Elizabeth.

Mr. Trujillo stated that when the process for competitive bidding is circumvented taxpayers end up paying more for services for the City and it is a very unfortunate situation. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is hoping that this will curtail future firms from trying to skirt the law. Mr. Trujillo stated that years ago we passed our own pay-to-play policy here at the Board of Education and anyone who makes a contribution of over \$300. has to be reported through the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Mr. Trujillo stated that these contributions were made by employees of the firm Birdsall Services Group and were later reimbursed. Mr. Trujillo stated that the way it worked was that your boss came into the meeting and they decided where they were going to put their political money and who they were going to try to influence. Mr. Trujillo stated that the people in the organization would go these cocktail parties, spaghetti dinners and make these small

contributions and then the company would reimburse them and this way they skirted around the law. Mr. Trujillo stated that this went on quite a while from 2008 through 2012 and over 1,000 contributions were made in excess of \$1 million and that's a lot of money in contributions. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is sure that they got millions and millions of dollars in return in contracts and work for their firm.

Mr. Trujillo stated that many organizations throughout the State, many municipalities and many city government officials in New Jersey have their report online and you can see who, what, when and how much they got and many of them have decided to return the money in the manner of a donation to charity. Mr. Trujillo stated that they have decided that it is better to just give the money to charity. Mr. Trujillo stated that once the story broke it was just an allegation but since they have been indicted and they have indicted seven executives charging them with nearly \$700,000. in contributions and that is a significant amount of money and that is very unfortunate. Mr. Trujillo stated that the \$700,000. worth of contributions probably cost the taxpayers of the State of New Jersey millions of dollars.

Mr. Trujillo stated that what troubles him is that our municipal government and several of the individuals who sit there and lead the City have been very critical of this Board and that is their right and he respects that. Mr. Trujillo stated that they have the absolute right to be critical when they feel so and sometimes he feels it has been unjust and they hold us to a higher standard than they hold themselves. Mr. Trujillo stated that he finds that to be very disheartening.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the report by the Star Ledger indicates that our Mayor Chris Bollwage received several of these donations, for example on March 13, 2008 there was a donation made of \$1,000. to the Election Fund of Chris Bollwage, on March 13, 2012 there was a donation of \$1,800. made to the Election Fund of Councilwoman Patricia Perkins Auguste, on the same day, March 13, 2012 there was a donation of \$1,800. made to the Election Fund of Frank J. Cuesta, and on the same day there was a donation of \$3,000. made to the Election Fund of J. Christian Bollwage. Mr. Trujillo stated that October 6, 2012 they gave the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth a \$1,500. donation, on October 26, 2011 they gave the Mayor \$2,600. for his election, on February 29, 2012 they gave the Election Fund of J. Christian Bollwage \$900., on March 20, 2012 they gave the Election Fund of J. Christian Bollwage \$250., on August 30, 2011 they gave the Election Fund of J. Christian Bollwage \$1,100., on October 8, 2008 they gave the Election Fund of J. Christian Bollwage \$1,000., on May 28, 2008 they gave the Election Fund of J. Christian Bollwage \$500., on March 5, 2011 they made a contribution to the Election Fund of Councilman-at-Large Manny Grova, Jr. \$300., on March 3, 2012 they made a small contribution to the Election Fund of Manny Grova, Jr. \$60., and he says small not to make light of the subject but the truth is no matter what the amount is whether it be \$60. or all the way to \$6,750. that Mayor Bollwage's campaign received the taxpayers lost millions. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is not going to sit here and say that they knowingly did something or knew something was inappropriate or expected something from these City officials here in Elizabeth and that he can't speak for that and he won't dare accuse them of anything because that would be unfair and unjust and he would suspect that they would have the same respect for us. Mr. Trujillo stated that the truth is that it did happen and he calls on them today to review their campaign contributions and do the right thing and find a charity of their choice and return the money. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is important that the citizens of Elizabeth understand that the people who run the City of Elizabeth are willing to do the right thing and they need to have the utmost confidence in their elected officials.

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution which he is proposing his colleagues adopt.

The Elizabeth Board of Education of the City of Elizabeth, County of Union and State of New Jersey Urges the City of Elizabeth to Adopt Policies That Insure Honest and Ethical Relations with Vendors and Pay-To-Play Restrictions

WHEREAS, the Elizabeth Board of Education has in place policies to insure honest and ethical relations with vendors and pay to play restrictions to guard against corruption in its contracting processes and practices; and

WHEREAS, Birdsall Services Group has been indicted for pay to play violations of law involving donations to political campaigns in exchange for contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Elizabeth Board of Education is aware of donations from Birdsall Services Group to Christian Bollwage, the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth does not have sufficient policies in place that insure honest and ethical relations with vendors that guard against corruption in its contracting processes and practices; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the lack of sufficient policies in the City of Elizabeth will continue to cause the City to be at risk for pay to play contracts; and

WHEREAS, elimination of pay to play contracts and honest and ethical relations with vendors should be a significant priority of the City of Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to compel the City of Elizabeth leadership to take a more aggressive role in addressing this serious issue facing all of the taxpayers and residents of the City of Elizabeth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elizabeth Board of Education calls on the Bollwage Administration and the City Council of the City of Elizabeth to do all that is necessary and appropriate to deal effectively with the problem of pay to play contracts, to insure that in these tough budgetary times, the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth will not be subjected to pay to play contracts which ultimately affect the taxes paid by property owners in the City of Elizabeth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Christian Bollwage, Mayor of the City of Elizabeth and Frank Cuesta, Patricia Perkins-Auguste, Manny Grova, Jr., Nelson Gonzalez, Joseph Keenan, Carlos Ceden, William Gallman, Jr., Frank Mazza and Carlos Torres, Members of the City of Elizabeth City Council, as well as to Chris Christie, Governor of the State of New Jersey, Raymond Lesniak, State Senator, Joe Cryan and Annette Quijano, members of the New Jersey State Assembly, urging them to compel the Bollwage Administration and the City Council to support tougher pay to play policies for the City of Elizabeth.

Resolution – The Elizabeth Board of Education of the City of Elizabeth, County of Union and State of New Jersey Urges the City of Elizabeth to Adopt Policies That Insure Honest and Ethical Relations with Vendors and Pay-To-Play Restrictions

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

Mr. Perreira stated that as he understands it is asking them to abide by the same pay to play rules that boards of education abide by.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we have one of the most stringent pay-to-play policies here at the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that he thinks that every large city above the City of Elizabeth has already initiated, enacted, and voted on pay-to-play ordinances,

including Jersey City and Newark and we are probably one of the few cities in the State of New Jersey that has not enacted pay-to-play.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to encourage his colleagues to support this because this is a matter of restoring the faith and the face of city government. Mr. Trujillo stated that any time there is a corruption scandal of this magnitude a lot of people are affected and the taxpayers need to know that we are heading in the right direction and the people they elect willfully want to do the right thing. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks that this is a no-brainer for city government and as Mr. Monteiro stated several other cities have already adopted this and we have one. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are often criticized politically when we run separate campaigns for this office of the contributions that we get and from whom they come and he knows of no contribution which is illegal and it is very important that we keep that above board and that City Council is held to the same standards along with the Mayor. Mr. Trujillo stated that quite frankly if they are going to be critical they should hold themselves to the same standard or better than they want to hold everyone else to and as a citizen of this City he can't imagine City Council and the Mayor not wanting to do this. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is just common sense legislation and takes all the questions and all the doubt out of what is going on. Mr. Trujillo asked his colleagues to consider supporting his resolution.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he totally supports this resolution and having been a councilman for eight years and having already many times, along with Councilman Jaspán numerous times, attempted to introduce an ordinance that would prohibit pay-to-play. Mr. Monteiro stated that our pay-to-play policy limits our fundraising abilities when we raise money through nickels and dimes and they raise money through very heavy corporate sponsors and huge city vendors who contribute not \$50. or \$100. but thousands of dollars. Mr. Monteiro stated that he was shocked and taken back when he ran with Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Mr. Padlo for the school board in November and something surfaced which we weren't used to, the PACS, political action committees. Mr. Monteiro stated that our opponent who just last week came before us to seek the open vacancy on the Board acknowledged the political action committee, the Elizabeth Education Future, that was created covertly. Mr. Monteiro stated that he tried to dance around it stating that he didn't know where the money came from and why Birdsall, an indicted company, donated to their campaign fund \$7,200. to that PAC fund that was sponsoring three candidates for the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is disturbing, should be investigated and that money should clearly be given back or to charity and if Mr. Rodriguez has not given it back already he should demand that the money be given back. Mr. Monteiro stated that it was used to attempt to acquire or buy the Board of Education seat and Birdsall clearly has come out and admitted their wrongdoing not just in one town but throughout many towns in the State. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is the time that the City should step forward and do the right thing. Mr. Monteiro stated that it wasn't just Birdsall donating to that PAC it was also the New York Longshoreman donating thousands, Peerless Beverage Company, an alcoholic beverage company, donating thousands of dollars to inject themselves into education here in the City of Elizabeth and that is disturbing to him. Mr. Monteiro asked his colleagues to certainly ask that City Council support this resolution from Mr. Trujillo and it is about doing the right thing. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is going to ask that Councilman Cedeno and Councilman Mazza have the courage to move it and second it and get a vote whether it is up or down and then they have to explain why and how they could even vote down a measure of good government that is already throughout the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Elizabeth Board of Education has one of the strictest pay-to-play policies in the State and we also have a nepotism policy. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is another misinformation item that you read and hear about at election time. Mr. Monteiro stated that once you come on the Board you can't hire family members and can't promote family members and that already exists here in the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mr. Monteiro commended his colleagues for their courage to sit here and take all these arrows and it happened this week again in the newspaper and another sad story that we will be

addressing in the very near future, more allegations and more innuendos against Board members and it is just sad that there are people out there who are obsessed with trying to destroy members of the Board through personal attacks and it is just sad. Mr. Monteiro stated that this Board will rise above that and this Board does rise above that and the results speak for themselves being the Number One Urban School District, two nationally recognized high schools and three National Blue Ribbon Schools and achievement and test scores have been going up every year. Mr. Monteiro stated that no one can doubt that and no one should doubt that and all they have to do is come to the schools and speak to the wonderful administrators and all the teachers who do this day in and day out.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is time to talk about the facts regarding the tax levy. Mr. Trujillo stated that there has been a lot of misinformation in reference to our ability to raise the tax levy in order to fund our schools properly.

Mr. Trujillo read into the record a letter addressed to Mr. Zengaro, City of Elizabeth Chief Financial Officer, from the New Jersey Department of Education Assistant Commissioner David F. Corso.

“Dear Mr. Zengaro,

Commissioner Cerf has asked me to respond to your letter of June 6, 2013 regarding the tax levy increase in the 2013-14 budget for Elizabeth School District.

The tax levy cap for school districts, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38, is not a hard two percent cap. The cap is calculated as the sum of the current tax levy plus an adjustment for increases in enrollment multiplied by two percent, and then increased by adjustments for increases in health care costs, increases in amounts for deferred PERS pension contributions, and increases or decreases whenever the responsibility of a school district activity is transferred from or to another school district or governmental entity. The current year cap may also be increased from unused cap amounts from previous years which may be “banked” and utilized in the three subsequent years, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39(e).

The cap calculation of the Elizabeth School District 2013-14 budget includes an adjustment for enrollment increases of \$1,173,000 and an adjustment for health care cost increases of \$1,793,091. These adjustments were reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent during the budget review, and bring the total cap amount to \$52,636,340. The general fund tax levy of \$52,313,124 is below the tax levy cap for the school year and is, therefore, within the statutorily permitted limit.”

Mr. Trujillo stated that having read that we are well within the rights and well within the needs to fund all the programs to ensure that each and every child is afforded an equal and adequate education. Mr. Trujillo stated that contractual obligations sometimes cost increases to the budget and he defends the contractual obligations and paying for the best puts us and gives us parity. Mr. Trujillo stated that these people would work somewhere else if we would not pay them well and that is the truth. Mr. Trujillo stated that this Board collectively over the years has been very generous to the staff and that’s what it takes to hire the best and he can’t imagine anyone not wanting the best for their children in the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Trujillo stated that what the City of Elizabeth administrators incorrectly stated in their attack towards the Elizabeth Public Schools when they wrote this letter and it was picked up by the Star Ledger is “The general fund tax levy of \$52,313,124 is below the tax levy cap for the school year and is, therefore, within the statutorily permitted limit” and they said we went over what we were allowed. Mr. Trujillo stated that either Mr. Zengaro is naïve or incompetent and he would like to believe that he was just mistaken.

Mr. Trujillo explained a chart comparing the tax levy of the City of Elizabeth to the Elizabeth Board of Education and stated that you can see the comparison of what the City of Elizabeth and its budget and the Board of Education and the money for our children's education has done. Mr. Trujillo stated that in 1997 the City of Elizabeth tax levy was \$38,822,058. and the school district was \$38,193,363. and as you follow down the columns you can see that in 1999 there was a shift all the way down to 2006 for the most part the school board kept it flat going from \$37,822,517. in 1999 to \$37,165,104. in fact less in 2006. Mr. Trujillo stated that when you look at the City of Elizabeth taxes in 1999 their tax levy was \$42,538,930. of taxpayer money and it increased two-fold to \$83,939,812. in 2006 and in 2007 the City increased their tax levy almost \$10 million and a little over \$1 million to the school budget. Mr. Trujillo stated that you can see from 2007 to 2012 we held our tax levy with a very modest increase and their tax levy ballooned from \$93,509,578. to a whopping \$123,328,515. compared to \$48,673,323 for the Board of Education. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is not an accountant and we have some of the finest accountants here but in the interest of keeping it simple they have outspent us by a lot of money and they have burdened the taxpayers much, much more and have provided much less of a service. Mr. Trujillo stated that in that time we have built several schools and we have had the opportunity to employ thousands of people, we have created jobs, and along the way have been good stewards of the taxpayers' money and we have supplied a very good product. Mr. Trujillo stated in fact we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is easy to criticize but the numbers don't lie and crime in the City of Elizabeth is up, taxes are up, and the people are leaving and they can't afford to be here because they have been overtaxed over the years and it has finally caught up to them. Mr. Trujillo stated that the only thing holding people here, quite frankly himself included, is the fact that we have a great school system. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have a young city and they love the schools and he hears it from his constituents who thought of moving to other urban areas and really don't want to because the schools can't compare. Mr. Trujillo stated that in fact there are people who consider moving back and what holds them away is the quality of life that sometimes the City administration offers and he doesn't want to criticize any department without having all the answers in front of him but that to say to us that we have unfairly increased taxes is unjust. Mr. Trujillo stated that in all reality he has noticed over the past few years the first thing when our City administrators got re-elected they actually voted themselves pay increases which is absurd while people are losing their homes and people struggle to have jobs. Mr. Trujillo stated that the President is pushing for a better America and these guys think a better America means taking more of the taxpayers' money for themselves instead of creating opportunity like we have done here over the years.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he is very proud of our budget and he knows these are hard, very lean times but if we are going to cut anywhere maybe we should look at City Hall and cut some of the fat there. Mr. Trujillo stated that we just had a candidate who wanted to sit here and everyone got upset because he asked the candidate how much he made. Mr. Trujillo state that his point was that the candidate told this Board in his interview that he ran, as a director's position at City Hall, a million dollar budget and he employed 60 people. Mr. Trujillo stated that is an average of \$16,000. per person which doesn't leave a lot of money for the program and asked what the kids get out of that program. Mr. Trujillo stated that there's a difference because we create good paying jobs for professionals and they create patronage jobs and that's a big difference. Mr. Trujillo stated that they need to look in the mirror before they come here and criticize this Board for its use of taxpayer funds. Mr. Trujillo stated that he remembers a few years ago when the Mayor was using the scare tactic in a campaign piece when he was running some candidates for the Board of Education and he told everybody that if the budget passed their taxes would balloon \$400. a year and that scared a lot of people. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Mayor was voting against our school budget and urging people to vote against our school budget. Mr. Trujillo stated that fortunately the taxpayers are very astute and saw past the scare tactic and there was no \$400. increase on behalf of the Board of Education and if anything, they snuck in their own increase at City Hall. Mr. Trujillo stated that he suspects, knowing the Mayor's past

history, that he will send a letter with his next tax bill trying to intimidate and scare the taxpayers. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks they really need to review their budget and they may even consider finding someone to replace Mr. Zengaro because someone like that should probably know a little better and would think he would be embarrassed in asking this question to the Department of Education. Mr. Trujillo stated that maybe he was put up to it, he doesn't know, but for whatever reason it just didn't sound like something someone who handles budgets would not know.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks it is more politics and posturing by the Mayor more than anything and the Mayor wants to scare the taxpayers. Mr. Trujillo stated that what he is telling the taxpayers is that if the Board of Education doesn't scale back our budget, if we don't cut programs, and if we don't hold off the opening of our schools that we have on line, then the Mayor has to lay off cops and firemen. Mr. Trujillo stated that the truth is that he hired the cops on a grant that President Obama gave us and he had to know that those cops would eventually have to be part of the force for a while and they weren't just hired until the grant ran out. Mr. Trujillo stated that if he has to fire them it would be really unfortunate and he would hate to see us lose any police quite frankly. Mr. Trujillo stated that he hopes they can restructure their cost and find a better way to fund the police because he doesn't know what we would do in this City without the police. Mr. Trujillo stated that this City has ballooned to 125,000 people or so says the last Census Report and he thinks we have about 375 police officers so that's not a very large force and it's a force that is getting older and as you know as they get into their years it cost a little more to keep them and with that comes experience but that is for them to worry about.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he takes exception to the Mayor and City Council criticizing us again and using the scare tactics and it's a losing battle for them. Mr. Trujillo stated that at the end of the day if you ask the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth if they would rather have more taxes go to the City or go to education people are going to bet on education not only because they want the best for the children but because we are providing a good service here and doing a great job. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a testament to all of the hard work of not only the staff here tonight but throughout the district and the parents who get involved and ask for more and we gave them more and we did it for a lot less.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Trujillo for his comments and stated that there is no doubting the passion that he has and the love that he has for the City of Elizabeth and certainly the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro commended Mr. Trujillo because it takes a tremendous amount of courage to sit up here and to speak the truth and sometimes the truth is going to hurt. Mr. Monteiro stated that he hopes Mr. Trujillo seeks re-election to this Board because his love for the City and this Board come out in his words. Mr. Monteiro stated that he feels the pain that is going to come his way because that unfortunately is what happens in elected office.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the misinformation, the pamphlets in the mail, the brochures and the ridiculous comments and statements and this one in particular about the tax levy was nothing more than misinformation coming from City Hall. Mr. Monteiro stated that he has no idea what Councilwoman Perkins Auguste was thinking when she went on her rant and rave at the Elizabeth City Council meeting spewing all the lies and misinformation about how we were breaking the law, we were above the 2% cap, the Board of Education was out of control and it was the furthest thing from the truth. Mr. Monteiro stated that this budget was approved by the Board of Education, it was sent to the County Superintendent who approved it and then it went to the State Department of Education and it was approved there too. Mr. Monteiro stated that not only did they look ridiculous and foolish but it had to come from a letter from the Department of Education to point that out.

Mr. Monteiro stated that what really got under his skin was Councilwoman Perkins Auguste attacks on the Board and being one of the strongest critics of this Board and it was further from the truth. Mr. Monteiro stated that now we learned in last week's Star Ledger article about the failed charter school, Adelaide Sanford Charter School, in Newark that was not only

failing from mismanagement but that test scores were atrocious. Mr. Monteiro stated that now we come to learn that Patricia Perkins Auguste is that school's Board President. Mr. Monteiro stated that a candidate, Mr. Rodriguez, who spoke last week and is a candidate again for the Board of Education in November, even himself recognized and called for her resignation on that school board. Mr. Monteiro asked Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman and the Legal Department to possibly look into this and he doesn't know if anything illegal or unethical was done here. Mr. Monteiro stated that it has come to his attention and asked if we are paying tuition to that charter school for students that attend that charter school.

Mr. Kennedy responded that yes we have two Elizabeth students whose parents reside in Elizabeth attending that charter school.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we have residents who reside in Elizabeth who choose to send their children to the charter school in Newark, Adelaide Sanford Charter School, that was just ordered to be closed down by the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro asked if we are paying for that tuition for them to go to that charter school.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes we are under the charter school laws.

Mr. Monteiro asked if we paid that already.

Mr. Kennedy responded that we paid through May but have not dispersed the June payment yet.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he is making a motion that we not pay whatever is left until we can ask for an investigation into whether or not having a City Council person sitting on City Council commenting on the Elizabeth Board of Education and is sitting knowingly on a board in Newark that is receiving money from our Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that he wants to know if anything unethical, improper, or illegal may have occurred. Mr. Monteiro asked Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman and the Legal Department to look into that and open an investigation into whether anything improper took place.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to hold up or freeze any additional money to go to the Adelaide Sanford Charter School.

Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Monteiro if he would amend his motion to include the fact that perhaps we consider asking that they return our money. Mr. Trujillo stated that quite frankly those children were not benefited by the services provided there and were in fact short-changed and the citizens of Elizabeth paid for that. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are required to provide equal and adequate education to all our children and they did not provide it there and that is evident. Mr. Trujillo stated that he did not know what the legalities are to that and he will leave that for Mr. Monteiro to consider in his motion not only not paying them what we owe them but in fact asking them to pay us back what we have paid them. Mr. Trujillo stated that they did not provide the services and he is sure those children did not get the same education they would have gotten if they had attended the Elizabeth Public Schools and they deserve that education. Mr. Trujillo stated that the least we could do is to recover that money so we could do that for them.

Ms. Bathelus stated that the motion was already put on the floor and it was seconded so she doesn't think we could amend it because she remembers last time she tried to do the same thing and the counsel said she could not amend it.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we have a motion and a second.

Ms. Bathelus stated that is correct so that means we have to vote.

Mr. Monteiro stated the motion and second is to hold the remaining amount due to Adelaide Sanford Charter School.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Perreira stated that this is something that we are going to see repeat itself not only with this school and primarily with all the charter schools coming up now. Mr. Perreira stated that he thinks it is more of a fad than anything else and they are not being held to the same standards as public schools. Mr. Perreira stated that if you are giving someone free reign of providing a product they should be held to the same standards as us so at the end of the day we're not wasting not only our taxpayers' money but we are putting our kids in harm.

Mr. Monteiro concurred and stated that it was also disturbing and alarming to read the articles in the Star Ledger about the Adelaide Sanford Charter School in Newark. Mr. Monteiro stated that one of the alarming statements by the journalists in the Star Ledger is that they had submitted dozens of OPRA requests to that particular charter school. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have to respond to an Open Public Records Act request in 7 business days and they have not responded to OPRA requests in over 10 months. Mr. Monteiro stated that what is really concerning and alarming to him and he doesn't know if any laws have been broken or if anything is unethical or improper but he would like to get to the bottom of it knowing now that money is leaving our district to go to funding a disaster of a school like that. Mr. Monteiro asked Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman if having an acting City Council person who is voting on City budgets if it has been disclosed on any financial records or any records that she is receiving any compensation from that school. Mr. Monteiro asked to open up an inquiry or investigation because there is more to be told about this charter school.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to make a motion that we draft a letter to not only the Commissioner of Education but to the governing body of that charter school demanding that we receive all monies paid for services rendered to our children. Mr. Trujillo stated that there is a lack of trust that they provided the adequate education of equal value that every child deserves and has a right to in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Trujillo stated that they disenfranchised our children by taking our money and not giving them the education that they deserve. Mr. Trujillo stated that Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman can review the legalities of the letter drafted that we demand our money back now that we passed a resolution not to pay the balance. Mr. Trujillo stated that quite frankly the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth deserve more and Councilwoman Perkins Auguste should be ashamed of herself and she should be leading this charge to recuperate the monies for the district if she is going to represent the constituents of this City and she has to understand that she represents the children too and not just who she wants. Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like a copy of this letter demanding our money back to be sent to Elizabeth City Council and especially Ms. Perkins Auguste so she understands that this is unacceptable. Mr. Trujillo stated that Ms. Perkins Auguste should be fighting for this money back too and that this goes back to our kids here in the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Monteiro asked Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman if the councilwoman would have to recuse herself from voting on or even discussing any Elizabeth Board of Education matters in regard to our budget when she knowingly is involved with a school that is receiving money from this Elizabeth Board of Education.

Interim Board Counsel Marvin Lehman responded that he believes she should have recused herself.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that a letter be sent to the Commissioner of Education and to the Adelaide Sanford Charter School demanding that we receive all monies paid for services rendered to our children.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Calella, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

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