

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 10-28-21

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

September 30, 2021  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on September 30, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy, 40 Morrell Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

In light of the Governor's recent order lifting Covid restrictions on indoor gathering capacity limits and social distancing requirements, the meeting will be open to the public in person. In person attendees will still be required to follow Covid precautions including masks and temperature monitoring. The Board will open in Public Session at 6:30 p.m. The Board reserves the right to go into Private Session to discuss matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act. Action will be taken.

Board President Jerry Jacobs presented the following statement at 6:48 p.m.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. 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 September 20, 2021. 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 Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy and to our television viewers to this September 30, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion may sign in up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment."

Mr. Jacobs announced that Heather Savage Ford will serve tonight in the capacity as Board Secretary and will sit in for Mr. Kennedy who is unavailable to attend tonight's meeting.

Present: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa (arr. 7:02 p.m.), Charlene Bathelus (via online platform), Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres (via online platform), Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Stanley Neron (arr. 7:00 p.m.), Stephanie Pestana (arr. 7:10 p.m. via online platform), Jerry Jacobs – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the community were present.

Mr. Jacobs called for a moment of silence for the passing of Damaryz Vazquez, retired parent liaison and revered Elizabeth community member and Paul Baez, former student of Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key

Pledge of Ethics

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer introduced a virtual performance by second grade students from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 of an original song, *Join the Celebración*, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced a virtual performance by students in the Chamber Orchestra from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and William F. Halloran School No. 22 who performed *Spring Song*, author unknown. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized students who won the Port Authority Bus Terminal Advisory Council Poster Contest including Eduardo DeJesus, fourth grade student at Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Elijah Pena, sixth grade student from Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; and Julius Ullisse, fifth grade student from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that the overall theme of the Poster Contest was NYC Moves Forward and the Port Authority Bus Terminal is welcoming patrons back to New York City after Covid quarantine measures had been reduced. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that the winning posters were posted on the Port Authority website and the Port Authority Bus Terminal Twitter account. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized Jacques Gonzales, Varsity Boys Head Soccer Coach, for his exceptional leadership in guiding his teams to county and state championships during the past three seasons and for recently reaching a milestone 50<sup>th</sup> career victory. Mrs. Carvalho read a resolution honoring Jacques Gonzales. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated Jacques Gonzales. Mrs. Carvalho stated that unfortunately Jacques Gonzales could not be present since he was coaching the Varsity Boys Soccer Team in a game vs. Plainfield tonight.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he had the opportunity on the first day of school to visit a number of our schools and was joined by his fellow Board members Diane Barbosa, Charlene Bathelus, and Iliana Chevres. Mr. Jacobs stated that it was so exciting to see our kids back in school because they were really happy to be there. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is something that the administration and the Board have worked very hard to make happen in these very challenging times. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is even more challenging for the City of Elizabeth with the loss of life that we had with Hurricane Ida. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have been struggling with and dealing with over 400 displaced children that are still attending the Elizabeth Public Schools trying to arrange the transportation and basic services they need all around the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Jacobs stated that our Superintendent, administration, staff, and teachers have been so integrally involved and making sure they put their best foot forward as we are only in our tenth day of the school year. Mr. Jacobs thanked them along with his colleagues for everything that they have done to make this a successful school reopening.

#### Resolution – Honoring Damaryz Vazquez

Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez read the resolution honoring Damaryz Vazquez.

Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta spoke about Damaryz Vazquez who came from Cuba and settled in Elizabeth. Mr. Cuesta stated that Damaryz was a beloved dance teacher for many years to so many young girls in Elizabeth and a dedicated former parent liaison in the Elizabeth Public Schools for fifteen years and will be very missed.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Cuesta for his comments.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer presented the community updates and stated that the presentation will be available on the district webpage. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Covid-19 guidance information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of New Jersey Department of Health. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that providing our students and team members a safe learning environment is our top priority.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about exclusions from school and presented the guidance for staying home when sick/exposed to Covid. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents should not send students to school when sick. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the symptoms and NJ Department of Health recommendation for students with symptoms to be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing a chart comparing the different symptoms for Covid-19, flu, and allergies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the tips for symptom checking and to stay home while Covid-19 test results are pending. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about close contact and explained the definition of close contact. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the exclusions criteria for persons with Covid-19, Covid-19

compatible symptoms, and close contacts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Union County is currently designated orange, which indicates there is a high risk of Covid-19 transmission. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the chart showing the exclusions and the high risk exclusion protocols.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about sports and extracurricular activities and stated that due to increased exhalation that occurs during physical activity, some sports can put players, coaches, trainers, and others who are not fully vaccinated at increased risk for getting and spreading Covid-19. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that close contact sports and indoor sports are particularly risky. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that similar risks might exist for other extracurricular activities, such as band, choir, theater, and school clubs that meet indoors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with Covid-19 and should be tested. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the district is working with the City of Elizabeth which has provided its resources to make Covid-19 screening available to students in sports and extracurricular activities. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in general, the risk of Covid-19 transmission is lower when playing outdoors than in indoor settings.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about flu shot information. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the schedule of sites and times for free flu shots. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Union County Board of County Commissioners is providing free flu shots at various locations in Union County.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about Covid-19 testing information. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the testing dates and sites for free Covid-19 testing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, the City of Elizabeth, and the Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the County of Union are offering free Covid-19 testing at the Erxelben Recreation Center, 513 Richmond Street, Elizabeth and free Covid-19 saliva testing at the Stephen Sampson Center, 800 Anna Street, Elizabeth.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about School Nos. 26 and 27 remediation updates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the extensive damage done to the school buildings due to the tremendous rain by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the present time, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @31 and Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 are projected to open in December. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the timeline is dependent on the availability of equipment and the replacement of parts.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the displaced students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that among the families that were displaced as a result of the damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida are 408 students who attend the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the provisions that have been made by the district to accommodate the needs of these displaced students so they may continue their education include school uniforms provided by the district, charter bus transportation to and from school, and social emotional learning (SEL) services.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the state assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on April 6, 2021, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) recognizing that “we are in the midst of a pandemic that requires real flexibility” informed the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) that the administration of Start Strong assessments in Fall 2021 will satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement to administer general assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this flexibility shall apply only to the 2020-2021 school year and the Start Strong assessments in Fall 2021 will be used in lieu of the New Jersey Student

Learning Assessments (NJSLA) that were scheduled to be administered in spring 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Start Strong Fall 2021 assessment is intended to produce information that should be used as a standards-based complement to the resources used by educators in their classrooms to evaluate the needs of students; be administered quickly and provide immediate results, and meet federal flexibility for the 2020-2021 school year associated with the administration of general English language arts, mathematics, and science assessment including public reporting of school-level results disaggregated by subgroup. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Start Strong assessments are based on prior-year academic standards and are available in English language arts for grades 4-10; mathematics for grades 4-8, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; and science for grades 6, 9, and 12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that each Start Strong assessment is designed to be administered in approximately 45-60 minutes to an entire class or grade level and will provide immediate results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Start Strong assessment schedule and stated that the New Jersey assessment administration window is from September 13, 2021 until October 22, 2021. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students who are absent during their scheduled test will have make-up tests administered during the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students who enter their school after their grade level was administered the Start Strong Assessment will be administered their assessments during the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing information for the Strong Start Assessment Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Start Strong Assessment Results have expanded reporting to provide additional details on the Individual Student Report (ISR) with information about the student's score and what it means. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Individual Student Reports (ISR) from the Start Strong assessments will provide parents and guardians with information on key areas in which students may need additional supports at the start of the school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the reports provide a starting point for parents and guardians to have conversations with their student's educators at the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that early conversations about where students may need additional supports in the 2021-2022 school year will help parents and guardians monitor student progress throughout the school year as their students receive instruction and academic supports.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide on the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment and stated that this is a new grade 11 assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the test dates are from March 14-18, 2022 and make-up dates are from March 21-25, 2022. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are waiting for more details.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides on the High School Graduation Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2023 through Class of 2025. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the first, second, and third pathway and criteria for the Graduation Assessment Requirements for English language arts and mathematics.

Mr. Jacobs 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 microphone based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The time limit will be strictly enforced and audio transmission will be terminated at the end of three minutes. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 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 participation 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. Jacobs called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz spoke about a problem with her child.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Diana Garcia-Torres, to address the Board.

Diana Garcia-Torres spoke about a problem with her child.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Michelle Santos spoke about a problem with her child.

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

Christina Moreira spoke about special education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Glenn Peguen, to address the Board.

Glenn Peguen spoke about a problem with food service at School No. 12.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes speak with the parent.

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

Kason Little spoke about problems in the district.

Mr. Jacobs thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next public participant, Martha Velasquez, to address the Board. Martha Velasquez did not come forward.

Mr. Jacobs called upon the next public participant, Jasmine Rosa, to address the Board.

Jasmine Rosa spoke about a problem with her child.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Coordinator of Transportation Jose Laranjeira speak with the parent.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Neron asked which school the child attends.

Jasmine Rosa stated that her child attends a public out-of-district school in Newark.

Mr. Jacobs called upon the next public participant, Maria DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria DaRassi spoke about special education and vaccinated teachers.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Lee Pereira, to address the Board.

Lee Pereira thanked the Superintendent for the information session and spoke about problems with virtual learning.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

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

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel matters, legal matters, specifically, Energy Savings Improvement Plan, contract for substitute services, and purchase of property; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, J.D., E.M., and I.N. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to go into private session at 8:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via online platform), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres (via online platform), Goncalves (via online platform), Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Goncalves excused herself from the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 11:33 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via online platform), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres (via online platform), Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez requested the following be untabled and added to the agenda:  
Award of Contract – DLH Enterprises

Mrs. Carvalho requested the following be untabled and added to the agenda:  
Award of Contract – Gillespie Group

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, that the following be untabled and added to the agenda.

Award of Contract – DLH Enterprises

Award of Contract – Gillespie Group

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via online platform),  
Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres (via online platform), Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:  
Award of Contract Report – add contract for DLH Enterprises  
Award of Contract Report – add contract for Gillespie Group  
Resolution – Return to Work – S.A.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

The first reading of the following new and revised policies was done:

5141.10	Policy	Face Coverings
6140	Policy	Curriculum Adoption

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:  
Minutes of the Meetings of August 26, September 2, and 9, 2021  
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2021  
Personnel Report  
Supplemental Personnel Report  
2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report  
Tuition Report  
Superintendent's Report – Considerations  
Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities



Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities  
 Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results  
 Authorizations Report  
 Supplemental Authorizations Report  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Authorizations Report  
 Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers  
 Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds  
 Award of Contracts Report  
 Supplemental Award of Contracts Report  
 Miscellaneous Communication – None  
 Claims List  
 Resolution – Week of Respect  
 Resolution – Christopher Columbus Day  
 Resolution – Italian American Heritage Month  
 Resolution – National Hispanic Heritage Month  
 Resolution – School Violence Awareness Week  
 Resolution – National Disability Employment Awareness Month  
 Resolution – Approval of Employment Contracts – Assistant Superintendents and  
     School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 Resolution – Requisition for Taxes  
 Resolution – Authorization for Energy Services Contract – Honeywell International, Inc.  
 Resolution – Payment of Unused Sick Days  
 Resolution – Contract for Children's Literacy Initiative – Coaching and Professional  
 Development  
 Resolution – Appointing BSN Sports, LLC, George L. Heider, Inc. t/a Sportsman's, All  
 American  
     Sports Corporation t/a Riddell All American, and Metuchen Center, Inc. to Provide  
     Athletic Equipment and Supplies for Winter Sports  
 Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days  
 Resolution – Approving Purchase Agreement – Oluwatosin Ogun d/b/a ICT Resources  
 Resolution – Honoring Jacques Gonzales - 50<sup>th</sup> Victory for Varsity Boys Soccer Team  
 Resolution – Amendment of Long Range Facility Plan – 824-864 North Broad Street  
 Resolution – Supporting the City of Elizabeth Safe Routes to School Project and the Application  
     For Safe Routes to School Funding  
 Resolution – Honoring Damaryz Vazquez

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions on the agenda.

Mr. Jacobs asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda:  
 Minutes of the Meetings of August 26, September 2, and 9, 2021  
 Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2021  
 Personnel Report  
 Supplemental Personnel Report  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report  
 Tuition Report  
 Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities  
 Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities  
 Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results  
 Authorizations Report  
 Supplemental Authorizations Report  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Authorizations Report  
 Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers  
 Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds  
 Award of Contracts Report  
 Supplemental Award of Contracts Report including the contracts for DLH Enterprises  
 and Gillespie Group  
 Miscellaneous Communication – None  
 Claims List  
 Resolution – Week of Respect  
 Resolution – Christopher Columbus Day  
 Resolution – Italian American Heritage Month  
 Resolution – National Hispanic Heritage Month  
 Resolution – School Violence Awareness Week  
 Resolution – National Disability Employment Awareness Month  
 Resolution – Approval of Employment Contracts – Assistant Superintendents and  
 School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 Resolution – Requisition for Taxes  
 Resolution – Authorization for Energy Services Contract – Honeywell International, Inc.  
 Resolution – Payment of Unused Sick Days  
 Resolution – Contract for Children's Literacy Initiative – Coaching and Professional  
 Development  
 Resolution – Appointing BSN Sports, LLC, George L. Heider, Inc. t/a Sportsman's, All  
 American  
     Sports Corporation t/a Riddell All American, and Metuchen Center, Inc. to Provide  
     Athletic Equipment and Supplies for Winter Sports  
 Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days  
 Resolution – Approving Purchase Agreement – Oluwatosin Ogun d/b/a ICT Resources  
 Resolution – Honoring Jacques Gonzales - 50<sup>th</sup> Victory for Varsity Boys Soccer Team  
 Resolution – Amendment of Long Range Facility Plan – 824-864 North Broad Street  
 Resolution – Supporting the City of Elizabeth Safe Routes to School Project and the Application  
     For Safe Routes to School Funding  
 Resolution – Honoring Damaryz Vazquez  
 Resolution – Return to Work – S.A.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, to adopt the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities – City of Elizabeth; Authorizations Report – City of Elizabeth, Groundwork Elizabeth; Resolution – Supporting the City of Elizabeth Safe Routes to School Project and the Application for Safe Routes to School Funding; Resolution - Approval of Employment Contracts for Assistant Superintendents and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary), Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities – City of Elizabeth; Authorizations Report – City of Elizabeth, Groundwork Elizabeth; Resolution – Supporting the City of Elizabeth Safe Routes to School Project and the Application for Safe Routes to School Funding; Resolution - Approval of Employment Contracts for Assistant Superintendents and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary), Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any Board member comments.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that there are a lot of excellent things in the Excellence News including an article about the Elizabeth High School Marching Band that will lead the 84<sup>th</sup> Pulaski Day Parade in New York City on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Carvalho asked everyone to watch the parade and show their support.

Mr. Neron extended his gratitude and the City's gratitude to the Elizabeth Board of Education and our leader, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, for all of the work that she and her team, and the entire district staff have done as a result of Hurricane Ida. Mr. Neron stated that she has opened the doors of our schools and made transportation available to our residents who have been displaced. Mr. Neron stated that we have a large number of residents displaced who are staying at hotels. Mr. Neron stated that it has been this district's top priority to make sure that these students do not skip a day when it comes to education and that their needs are met. Mr. Neron commended our Superintendent for her leadership galvanizing the support of her entire staff, administration, and the Board to be able to see this through. Mr. Neron thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for the great work that she has done. Mr. Neron stated that we have been up countless hours around the clock doing this work and it still continues. Mr. Neron stated that we have a long road ahead to recovery and as a community and as a City, he knows we can do this and we are Elizabeth Strong. Mr. Neron stated that we are proud of all the work that everyone has done. Mr. Neron thanked the entire community who have donated and called and prayed for all those families in our City. Mr. Neron stated that the entire City was impacted and nobody expected something of this magnitude to happen here in Elizabeth. Mr. Neron stated that you read about these things in the paper and see it on television but you never think it can happen at home. Mr. Neron stated that it has hit us. Mr. Neron stated that we have stepped up to the challenge to do all that we can, do what we can, and do what we know how.

Mr. Neron stated that it has been a really rough couple of months in our world from the situation in Afghanistan and what is happening with all of the refugees. Mr. Neron stated that we should keep them in prayer and a lot of families are being displaced and end up being dispersed throughout the country. Mr. Neron stated that there was also an earthquake that took place in Haiti and a lot of unrest happening around the world. Mr. Neron stated that not only was there an earthquake in Haiti but also a huge crisis at our Mexico-US border with Haitian immigrants. Mr. Neron stated that it is a very complicated situation and the entire world is watching the atrocities that are happening at the border. Mr. Neron stated that he thinks we should denounce those atrocities and make sure that due process is happening for everybody who is trying to seek asylum. Mr. Neron stated that we want to ask for prayers for this government as well as others when trying to deal with this situation. Mr. Neron stated that it is a challenging time and challenging situation for all our cities and this country. Mr. Neron stated that we have to do better and we have to really advocate for immigration reform so that we can see equity within immigration itself. Mr. Neron thanked everyone for their prayers and support that have been given.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer and her staff and stated that he personally witnessed the countless hours that she has done in not only getting the schools open but also having to deal with Hurricane Ida and the damage in our schools. Mr. Jacobs stated that it has taken an extraordinary amount of time for the over 400 displaced children making sure that they don't miss a day of school, making every effort to accommodate the families and children to provide not just an education but try to bring some sense of normalcy to their lives after they lost everything which is such a horrific situation.

Mr. Jacobs acknowledged other colleagues that have done work in Afghanistan and other relief efforts. Mr. Jacobs stated that we get criticized about saying we do not care but everyone doesn't realize that we volunteer and this is not a paid job and this is not a paid position. Mr. Jacobs stated that we do this for our love and compassion for our community.

Mr. Jacobs acknowledged Board member Stanley Neron because he has been outstanding in this tragedy that Elizabeth has experienced from Hurricane Ida. Mr. Jacobs stated that from Day 1 he has been there 24 hours nonstop trying to deal with the families coming into the Dunn Center and trying to move them into lodging and keep the system going. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is not even Mr. Neron's arena or area of responsibility as his daytime job but because of the passion that he has for our community and for our City, this is how a true leader conducts himself. Mr. Jacobs stated that he also wants to commend Mr. Neron for his efforts in the situation that has been going on in Haiti and as he eluded to the situation at the border. Mr. Jacobs stated that as Mr. Neron said, the world is watching. Mr. Jacobs stated that what happened there is reprehensible and the fact that Haitian refugees were being whipped with reins at the border is uncalled for. Mr. Jacobs stated that people want to keep certain people out of the U.S. but all they want to do is come here and work and have a better life. Mr. Jacobs stated that we, on the Board of Education, try to strive to give that idea of imagination to our children here, to make them realize having a good education will give you the keys to success for a great life. Mr. Jacobs stated that he really appreciates Mr. Neron and he salutes Mr. Neron for all the things he has done for our community. Mr. Jacobs stated that even though we have a long way to go, without Mr. Neron we wouldn't be at this point so far. Mr. Jacobs saluted Superintendent Hugelmeyer for the outstanding job that she has done with her team. Mr. Jacobs stated that he sees them there at 8:00 and 9:00 at night going through every single child to make sure that each

child is picked up and to make sure the child makes it to school the next day. Mr. Jacobs stated that Superintendent Hugelmeyer has done an outstanding job. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is so happy that Mrs. Hugelmeyer is our Superintendent and asked, if she wasn't, where would we be right now in the situation that we are in.

Mr. Neron thanked Mr. Jacobs for the accolades and stated that we don't do this alone. Mr. Neron stated that this entire Board has done what they can along with the administration, security, maintenance staff, IT, and there are too many to mention but everybody has stepped up and this was a community effort. Mr. Neron stated that no one man or woman can do this by themselves without a wonderful team. Mr. Neron thanked everyone.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Neron for mentioning our wonderful staff.

On a motion made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via online platform), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres (via online platform), Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

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