

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
(Pending Board Approval)

June 12, 2025
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education and a Public Hearing on the Budget was called to order June 12, 2025, at 1:15 p.m. via an online platform hosted at 500 No. Broad Street Elizabeth, NJ.

Board President, Stan Neron welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the following statement:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. This is a special meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting using an on-line platform was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on June 4, 2025. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.”

“There will be an on-line public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must register on-line up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form states the name, email, phone number of the person who wants to comment. Members of the public who prefer not to, or do not have the means to, participate using the on-line platform, may continue to participate by emailing statements relative to agenda items and/or educational matters to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org. All statements received will be read into the record during the Meeting’s Public Comment Portion. All emails must be submitted and received by the Secretary of the Board up to the start of the meeting and, as is always the case must include the public member’s full name for the record. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. Emails received but not read after the 60-minute duration will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.”

Present: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messrs. Rivera, Neron-7

Absent: Dr. Barbosa, Mrs. Chevres-2

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., and Co – General Counsel, Edward Kologi Esq. of Kologi Simitz Law Office, Esq., and members of the community were present.

Citizens may address the Board.

“At this time, the meeting is open for public comment on-line to those who have registered with the on-line participation form prior to this session. I shall call individuals to participate based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All 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:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced;
2. No personal attacks on individuals;
3. No vulgar or indecent language;
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting;
5. Speakers should refrain from naming individuals;
6. Comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated.

“If the 60 minute public comment period expires before all registered on-line participants have been called, remaining participants can email their statements to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org and they will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting”

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

Mr. Neron called upon the first participant, Mrs. Maria Lorenz to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about the protocols of the Superintendent’s review and Special Education.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her remarks.

There were no emails received prior to the start of the meeting and thus nothing had to be read into the record of the meeting.

As there were no other members of the public signed up to address the Board, Mr. Neron closed the public comment portion of this meeting.”

“The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, for discussion of personnel, specifically Superintendent’s Evaluation. The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.”

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega to go into private session at 1:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho,, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messers. Rivera., Neron. – 7

Mr. Neron left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and seconded by Ms. Bathelus to return to public session at 2:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, -6

Negative - None

On a motion made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera. -6

Negative - None

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