

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

May 12, 2016  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, 1071 Julia Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Charlene Bathelus presented the following statement at 6:45 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 The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Friday, May 6, 2016. 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 May 12, 2016 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 prior to the commencement of public participation 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: Mmes. Amin (arr. 6:53 p.m.), Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo (arr. 6:50 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus – 8

Absent: Mr. Perreira – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Aliya Filipowicz, student at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students Medjine Desire, Widline Exalus, and Aliya Filipowicz, classroom assistant Jada Golden, music teacher

September Daniels, and vice principal Sandra Evaristo, from Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6.

Miss Bathelus introduced students from the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who performed the Haitian national anthem, *La Dessalinienne* by Justin Lherisson.

Mr. Trujillo introduced Marlenes L. Teixeira, music teacher from Terence C Reilly School No. 7 and Sylvia Jacobson, assistant from Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 who performed the Cuban national anthem, *La Bayamesa* by Perucho Figueredo.

Miss Goncalves introduced Gustavo Agostinho and Crystal Urrutia, students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy who performed the Portuguese national anthem, *A Portuguesa*, by Henrique Lopes de Mendonca.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Widline Exalus, student at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6.

Ms. Bathelus introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Ms. Bathelus read the Holocaust Day of Remembrance Resolution and introduced Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky from Bris Avrohom.

Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky stated that Yom HaShoah is a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust. Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky lit a candle in memory of the six million people and especially the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust.

Ms. Bathelus and Board members presented Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky with a framed Resolution of Holocaust Day of Remembrance adopted by the Board at the April 21, 2016 Board meeting.

Mr. Trujillo introduced students from Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 who performed a dance to *Mi Tierra* by Gloria Estefan. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mr. Neron introduced students from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who performed a dance to *Pi WO (Higher)* by Wyclef Jean. Ms. Bathelus joined the dance routine. Mr. Neron thanked the students and Ms. Bathelus for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Aline Pereira and Andrew Seabra, eighth grade students from Madison-Monroe School No. 16 who recited a Portuguese poem by Cecilia Avaya. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Portuguese language students Krystal Maldonado, Camila Rodriguez, Gloria Cavalheiro, and Angelica Rojas from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy who recited the poem, *Mar Portuguese* by Fernando Pessoa. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus welcomed everyone and thanked Principal Christopher Mingoia and Vice Principals Sandra Evaristo and Colomb Thomas-Petit for hosting the Board meeting at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6.

Mr. Nina recognized Jasiah Queen, fifth grade student at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 for winning the New Jersey USA Wrestling Championship. Mr. Nina and Board members congratulated Jasiah Queen and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Miss Goncalves recognized seventh grade student Qyaisha Peeples and sixth grade student Medjine Desire for receiving outstanding ratings in the Solo Vocalist Category at the 2016 Union County Teen Arts Competition. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Amelia Turner, guidance counselor at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 for her dedication to the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools for the past 36 years. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated Amelia Turner and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized Anthony Mendes, physical education teacher at Christopher Columbus School No. 15 for his act of heroism performing the Heimlich maneuver and saving our student from choking. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated Anthony Mendes and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was selected by the State of New Jersey Department of Education as a Bilingual Model Program. Mr. Rodriguez introduced a video that was presented to the New Jersey Department of Education showcasing the Elizabeth Public Schools Bilingual Model Program. Mr. Rodriguez recognized Director of Bilingual ESL Education Lisette Calvo, Supervisors of Bilingual ESL and World Language Veronica Alvero and Sandra Nunes. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized members of the Cuban Parade Committee who spend countless hours volunteering their time and effort to organize the Cuban Day Parade in order to celebrate the Cuban culture and recognize the contributions of Cuban-Americans to the Elizabeth community. Mr. Trujillo recognized Miguel Jimenez, President of The Cuban Club and members of the committee for their dedication and energy to organizing an event that celebrates the influence of Cuban culture here in Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo and Board members presented Miguel Jimenez with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized the members of the Elizabeth Portugal Day Committee, the Elizabeth Portuguese Lions/Leos, and the Portuguese Instructive Social Club that help to enrich the lives of Elizabeth residents and create a more vibrant community by teaching, sharing, and preserving the Portuguese culture here in our City. Mrs. Carvalho recognized Carla Rodrigues, President of the Elizabeth Portugal Day Committee, Idalina Lopes, President of the Elizabeth Portuguese Lions/Leos Club, and Jose Brito, President of the Portuguese Instructive Social Club. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized Feret Fenelis, Executive Director of Aksyon Kominote Entenasynonal Pou Developman Pisto Haiti (AKEDP) and stated that this is a non-profit organization founded to help immigrating Haitians and Haitian Americans with human services and adapting to life in the United States. Mr. Neron stated that through the help of services provided by organizations such as AKEDP, Haitian Americans have been given a greater opportunity to make meaningful and significant impacts in their community including here in Elizabeth. Mr. Neron and Board members presented Feret Fenelis with a certificate of commemoration.

Miss Goncalves stated that this year the Grand Marshall of the Portuguese Day Parade is our Board Vice President Maria Carvalho. Miss Goncalves invited everyone to attend the Portuguese Day Parade on Sunday, June 5, 2016. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated Maria Carvalho and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Board President Bathelus presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. 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.”

Ms. Bathelus called upon the first public participant to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, asked about a contract with Junior Adventure, why the services of the forensic auditors are needed on the school budget, and if a vendor was selected for lead testing.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Giovanna LaRosa, to address the Board.

Giovanna LaRosa, 532 Second Avenue, stated that she is a parent and representative of Elizabeth Education Organizing Committee (ELEOC). Ms. LaRosa spoke about special services and the air conditioning at older schools.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Ms. Bathelus closed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to address some of the concerns of the parents. Mr. Trujillo stated that he agrees with Ms. Moreira on the waiting of the testing of the water and is it is unconscionable in a \$500 million budget. Mr. Trujillo stated that the last time we tested water it was about \$35,000. Mr. Trujillo stated that in a budget of a half a billion dollars, \$35,000. is very miniscule and he is sure that we can find \$100,000. if we had to. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know what the results would be but he is confident that things will be fine but we have to assure the parents that we are doing everything possible to protect the drinking water within our schools. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have always been a leader in everything we have done in this district. Mr. Trujillo stated that we built this district and its' success on leadership and we founded this district on leadership and we believe that everything rises and falls on leadership. Mr. Trujillo asked why we shouldn't lead the State in actually testing and why should we have to wait for the State and they may or may not even give us the money. Mr. Trujillo stated that shouldn't be the cause of not testing. Mr. Trujillo stated that we shouldn't wait any longer and we should test right away. Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to make a motion that we do pick a vendor immediately and we test the drinking water in our schools immediately.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that a vendor for lead testing be selected immediately and test the drinking water in our schools immediately.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she knows that Mr. Trujillo and Mrs. Amin missed the last meeting but we already discussed at the last meeting that we were going to be putting that in place and hiring a company to do the lead testing.

Mr. Trujillo asked when.

Ms. Bathelus asked Mr. Williams to explain.

Mr. Williams stated that he wants everyone to know that both the speaker and Mr. Trujillo are entirely correct and the State has announced a program and it is not funded yet. Mr. Williams stated that two meetings ago and then again last meeting the Board authorized by resolution a public bid that we are going to be doing competitive bidding for us to select a vendor. Mr. Williams stated that the procurement documents have been prepared and they are ready to be put online and go out. Mr. Williams stated that the only reason we are waiting is for two purposes. Mr. Williams stated that we have been coordinating with the State in order to make sure that we don't miss the reimbursement or funding should it come through so that we are doing exactly as they want both in terms of pricing and the public procurement process but most importantly we want to do the broadest possible scope of testing. Mr. Williams stated that we want to test not only water fountains but the State is going to mandate, and it appears from our efforts and our coordination with them, testing of sinks in the classroom and any other water source so that you get a comprehensive result in all schools of the lead content and the quality of the water. Mr. Williams stated that the Board has initiated that process and we are way ahead of the other districts in the State and we are doing it while at the same time preserving our right to be reimbursed if that funding is provided by the Legislature.

Mr. Trujillo stated that what we are doing is waiting. Mr. Trujillo stated that waiting is not an option and we are talking about children. Mr. Trujillo stated that his children drink from those water fountains, Mrs. Amin's children drink from those water fountains, and Mrs. Carvalho's children drink from those water fountains.

Mr. Williams stated that we are not waiting.

Mr. Trujillo asked when the testing is starting.

Mr. Williams stated that we are going to comply with the law and we are going to do competitive procurement as required by law for laboratory services.

Mr. Trujillo stated that this is the problem with having lawyers answer questions. Mr. Trujillo stated that the truth is we are waiting. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are waiting on the bureaucracy that is Trenton to fund something that we can fund today and get reimbursed for later. Mr. Trujillo stated that is the reality and we are not putting the children first.

Mr. Williams stated that we are not waiting and it is appropriate to do it legally.

Mr. Trujillo asked what is illegal about testing the water now.

Mr. Williams stated that in order to hire laboratory services State law requires competitive contracting, a procurement process, and publication of a RFP/RFQ in compliance with the statute. Mr. Williams stated that all of that has been completed and is ready to go.

Mr. Trujillo asked if they have been published.

Mr. Williams responded not yet.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he missed one meeting but that means for two months now we have been talking about this and we are still preparing the paperwork.

Ms. Bathelus stated that if Mr. Trujillo would like to continue to go back and forth all he is trying to do is to turn what is happening into a negative. Ms. Bathelus stated that we already said that we are ahead of what we are trying to do.

Mr. Trujillo stated that our children drink water here and he is concerned about it.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she understands that and they are trying their best. Ms. Bathelus stated that she cares for every child in the school system.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is wrong to wait. Mr. Trujillo stated that he made a motion and it was seconded.

Ms. Bathelus stated that they already passed a motion at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he made a motion and it was seconded that we pick a vendor immediately and start testing.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we would need to follow the agenda and you would need a suspension of rules to make a motion outside of the agenda.

Mr. Trujillo stated that if Mr. Rodriguez doesn't want to vote on it just say it.

Ms. Bathelus stated that we are moving onto the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2016 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2016

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina (abstain-L.S.), Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Personnel Report – Resignation, etc.

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

Mr. Trujillo stated that the gentleman being hired is a security guard who was let go for performance and is being rehired.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

#### Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table the request from Club Valley.

The motion to table the request from Club Valley was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees (except for the request from Club Valley which was tabled).

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the requests be approved.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he wants to follow-up again and we brought this up several times. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is still concerned that there are students in the district that are not getting a field trip. Mr. Trujillo stated that he really hopes that the committee can actually come up with an idea or policy to ensure that every child gets at least one trip. Mr. Trujillo stated that it shouldn't be left to the organization of a staff member only whether they do or they don't and there should be some accountability in making sure every child gets a trip.

Ms. Bathelus stated that if Mr. Trujillo has any ideas he can always give them to the Educational Management Committee so that they can work and try to execute some of the ideas. Ms. Bathelus stated that if Mr. Trujillo has any ideas to assist them she is sure they would welcome it.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that the first report is the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results and introduced Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC Peter Vosseler.

Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC Peter Vosseler 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. Mr. Vosseler stated that since our last Board meeting our district has conducted 37 HIB investigations which were conducted by our anti-bullying specialists and himself. Mr. Vosseler reviewed the report including a summary of cases, males, females, regular education students, students with a disability, students from other district, non-students, unknown, and other. Mr. Vosseler 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.

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

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that her next report includes highlights from *InsideEPS*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the first article is *EPS Participates in Family Services Town Hall*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was among several organizations to participate in the Family Services Town Hall for families affected by autism on May 7, 2016 at Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this event was co-sponsored by Autism Speaks New Jersey and U.S. Senator Bob Menendez and hosted in partnership with Union County, City of Elizabeth, Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth Board of Education, and Moving New Jersey Forward Foundation and the event sought to bring together young adults and adults with autism, families, adult service providers, and state resources in a positive and collaborative atmosphere. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the town hall started with a panel discussion focusing on providing families with options to think about and explore as they begin to plan for adulthood. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the guiding principle of the discussion was the belief that all individuals with autism, regardless of the level of support needed, should be able to live rewarding lives filled with purpose, dignity, choices, and happiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the panel included Social Marketing Coordinator at Autism Speaks Kerry Magro; Executive Director of Educational Partnership for Instructing Children (EPIC) Peter Gerhardt; Clinical Administrator of SCCAT and S-COPE at Trinitas Regional Medical Center Lucille Esralew; and Director of Supports Program and Employment Services of the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities Jennifer Joyce. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Supervisor of Special



Services Michael Burke was the moderator of the panel discussion. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that families that attended had the opportunity to ask questions following the discussion. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resource fair held after attendees addressed the panel allowed families to meet with agencies that provide services for young adults and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *Lower, Upper Academy Bands Earn Excellent, Superior Ratings at JP Stevens Concert Band Festival*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Lower Academy Concert Band and Upper Academy Symphonic Band were excellent and superior in their successful performances at the JP Stevens 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert Band Festival on April 27, 2016. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Lower Academy Concert Band received a score of 83.25 and an excellent rating and the Upper Academy Symphonic Band received a score of 91.5 and a superior rating. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Upper Academy Symphonic Band received an award for the Best Brass Section of the evening and two students, Michelle Sanchez, alto saxophone, and Stevens Cruz, baritone, received awards for best soloists. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the other bands which compete in the festival were JP Stevens Symphonic Band, JP Stevens Wind Ensemble, Highland Park Wind Ensemble, and Metuchen High School Wind Ensemble. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the adjudicators for the evening were Dr. Thomas McCauley of Montclair State University and Dr. Christopher Wickham of Rutgers University. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Music Director Wayne Dillon conducted both bands and he conducted the Lower Academy Concert Band without a rehearsal. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Supervisor of Music Dennis Argul attended the performances and was inspired by the stage presence, musicality and performance acumen of both groups but even more impressed by their off-stage performance in how well they represented the Elizabeth Public Schools with great dignity and respect.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Students Selected to Attend Breakfast with the Senator*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that EPS students from two high schools were invited to attend U.S. Senator Robert Menendez's first annual "Breakfast with the Senator" in Newark on April 30. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the breakfast was designed to ensure students and parents in under-represented communities are receiving vital information about the United States Service Academies so that they may explore all options in their pursuit of higher education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that among the topics that were discussed are opportunities for students to receive a full four-year scholarship comparable to an Ivy League education, earn a commission as a military officer, receive a monthly salary while completing a degree program, and apply for a low-interest career starter loan if they qualify for nomination to the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and U.S. Naval Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students were selected for demonstrating a strong interest in academic excellence coupled with a strong leadership in their community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this event will be great for our invited students to meet Senator Menendez and learn more about the educational and career opportunities provided by our nation's armed forces.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Students to Participate in HISPA 2016 Youth Conference*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Elizabeth Public Schools students will be participating in the 2016 Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA) Youth Conference on June 3 at the Frist Campus Center of Princeton University. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this conference is co-sponsored by Princeton University and Verizon and is expected to gather 150 seventh and eighth grade students from Elizabeth, Perth Amboy, and Summit. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this will provide them with a unique experience to visit a university campus, hear from inspirational speakers, and participate in hands-on workshops designed by professional organizations, university staff, and supporting corporations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Youth Conference stimulates students to explore career options in a realistic manner and allows them the opportunity to interact with many role models representing many cultural backgrounds and career through a one-day program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the first-hand experience with the real world lets them question themselves about their future and puts them on an early career exploration track. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that ten district schools currently participate in the HISPA Mentoring Program which is a New Jersey-based organization

dedicated to mobilizing Latino professionals to serve as role models in educational programs inspiring Latino students to pursue higher education and contribute to America's future.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last article is *EPS Bilingual Program Designated a Model Program by NJDOE*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools Bilingual Program Grades K-12 was designated by the New Jersey Department of Education as a model program for the 2016-2018 award period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as a Model Program the Elizabeth Bilingual Program Grades K-12 will serve as a resource for other districts in the central region of New Jersey and neighboring areas enabling educators to witness firsthand exemplary practices for newcomer students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the program will also enable administrators and teachers to engage in dialogue about issues of mutual concern and discuss the potential for future collaboration regarding curriculum development projects and professional development initiatives. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this concludes her report.

Ms. Bathelus thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for her report.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho (abstain- O.H.), Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina (abstain- O.H.), Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter into Contract, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

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

Mr. Trujillo stated that Lerch, Vinci & Higgins is on the report and although he did miss the last meeting he noticed that they were paid \$61,000. Mr. Trujillo asked what the work is that they were doing because originally their contract was not to exceed \$20,000. and then they were paid \$61,000. Mr. Trujillo stated that later in the meeting they were authorized to exceed and expand their scope of reviewing the budget and part of the negotiations with the union contract. Mr. Trujillo stated that leads him to believe that they started doing work prior to being authorized to actually do the work. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are billing us \$61,000. and so in order to have it expanded they should have been expanded prior to us paying them or billing us. Mr. Trujillo asked what the \$61,000. is that they are billing us for. Mr. Trujillo stated that they come here and are working with special counsel that is the law firm of Florio Perrucci Steinhardt and Fader. Mr. Trujillo stated that the law firm is charging \$12,000. and asked what part of that money is part of what they are doing with the forensic auditor. Mr. Trujillo stated that it doesn't add up and it isn't fair for the public to think that this is being spent just on the auditor when in fact part of that is the attorney fee. Mr. Trujillo stated that it doesn't show it here and asked if there is any way to see the actual breakdown of the work that the Florio firm is doing with the forensic auditor so we can get a true cost of what the forensic auditor is costing us.

Mr. Williams stated that the legal bills as well as the bills from the auditor or any of the other bills that are voted on by this Board are public documents and subject to redaction because of attorney-client privilege which would not apply to Mr. Trujillo. Mr. Williams stated that they are subject to his review at any time. Mr. Williams stated that the work done by the forensic auditor and the work done by the law firm in support of the forensic audit is broken down monthly in their bill submissions. Mr. Williams stated that he can look at them at any time that he wants either at the Board offices or if he wants to go through and has questions he is sure that they would be willing to meet with him and answer his questions. Mr. Williams stated that with respect to the concern that he expressed about the amounts of the Lerch, Vinci contract that the contract was amended prior to the Board voting to pay the bill that was submitted in the amount he cited. Mr. Williams stated that because the contract was amended prior to the vote on the payment of the bill that was done in a lawful fashion. Mr. Williams stated that the only remaining question is whether or not it was appropriate for them and how does the work break down prior to the vote on the contract amendment. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Trujillo is correct that a lot of the work done between the prior contract cap and the contract amendment was done before the vote on the contract amendment. Mr. Williams stated that they had done work which exceeded their contract cap which of course necessitated the amendment to the contract. Mr. Williams stated that it is still perfectly lawful so long as the Board votes before the payment is made. Mr. Williams stated that the only thing that he should know is that their work is broken down into three different categories, the work that they did on the forensic audit for three months in a row, the work that they did in helping the Board to organize and reduce the budget into a budget which Mr. Trujillo supported. Mr. Williams stated that the work that they provided on the budget, and the Superintendent and Administrator can back him up on this, absolutely saved the district in excess of \$2 million. Mr. Williams stated that in addition to that they are doing work with us as we prepare to engage in the negotiations process with the teachers and the other unions. Mr. Williams stated that there is a negotiations committee scheduled for this week and he hopes Mr. Trujillo will take the time to attend so that he can meet not only the attorney who is doing the negotiations but also the auditor and get his idea as to his assistance.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he appreciates the answer and just so he is clear the work was done prior to and that it is not illegal. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Williams said it is not illegal which is great to hear that we did not do anything inappropriately. Mr. Trujillo stated that the work was started prior to us actually voting on it. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is kind of presumptive by them to start the work and assume that we would approve the contract extension.

Mr. Williams stated that he doesn't think that they assumed anything and if the contract amendment had not been approved they would not have been able to be paid for the work that they did.

Mr. Trujillo stated that they submitted a bill and expected to be paid.

Mr. Williams stated that they submitted a bill and they asked that their contract be amended and the cap be increased. Mr. Williams stated that it was perfectly legal the way and the order in which it was done. Mr. Williams stated that the work that they did on the budget and the work that they have done in helping us to prepare for negotiations and putting the proper documents together for review and they were of great assistance in that regard.

Mr. Trujillo asked if they saved us \$2 million.

Mr. Williams stated yes.

Mr. Trujillo asked if we could use some of that money to test the water.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the legal fees total \$130,400. this month compared to \$350,000. for the same time last year. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are cutting the legal fees to a third and

later in the meeting we are going to find out that our lawyers actually made us some money, close to \$300,000. in a possible issue. Mr. Rodriguez thanked all the members and we are trying to keep legal fees down and we are proving it month to month and we have been making some money some months.

Mr. Trujillo stated that eventually we will be able to pay for the water testing.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

#### Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

#### Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

#### Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

#### Miscellaneous Communication

Ms. Bathelus stated that the chairperson of each committee will present a report at this time.

#### Finance and Accounting Committee

Chairperson Stanley Neron stated that the Finance and Accounting Committee met on May 2 and 11, 2016.

Mr. Neron stated that on May 2, 2016 Mr. Lerch, an Independent Auditor, was invited to the meeting to provide his guidance on the recommendations as it pertained to the 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Neron stated that the review afforded the members of the committee further information in support of the newly proposed budget as it pertained to the use of surplus funds.

Mr. Neron stated that on May 11, 2016 the local legislatures were invited to attend to discuss the current level of funding and the impact on our urban school district. Mr. Neron stated that Senator Lesniak, Assemblyman Holly, together with a legislative aide on behalf of Assemblywoman Quijano joined Sharon Kregel from the Education Law Center to discuss the closing of the adequacy gap. Mr. Neron stated that the Superintendent discussed the impact of the budget cuts over the years and the district's continued focus on academic achievement. Mr. Neron stated that the members of the Finance Committee stressed the various challenges that the

current level of funding creates and the limited options. Mr. Neron stated that the legislators appreciated the opportunity to engage in this level of discussion and the information provided.

#### Educational Management Committee

Chairperson Stanley Neron stated that the Educational Management Committee met on May 4, 2016.

Mr. Neron stated that the meeting afforded the committee the opportunity to learn about various opportunities available to the school community. Mr. Neron stated that the first presenter from PGK discussed enrichment opportunities whereby students ages 5-16 have the opportunity to showcase their talents before a panel that include representatives from the pop culture industry such as Nickelodeon. Mr. Neron stated that the recommendation from the committee was to have the Supervisors of Music and Art together with a group of teachers to review the program offerings. Mr. Neron stated that these recommendations will be brought to the next Educational Management Committee meeting.

Mr. Neron stated that the second presenter from Love Smarts offered a program for students in middle and high school that seeks to support the creation of a positive youth culture that honors self-reliance and respect. Mr. Neron stated that the recommendation from the committee was to have the Supervisor of Physical Education, Health & Safety to review the curriculum offered together with a group of teachers to review the program objectives and determine the alignment with the district's curriculum. Mr. Neron stated that these recommendations will be brought to the next Educational Management Committee meeting.

Mr. Neron stated that the third presenter from The Snyder Academy presented various educational programs that address art and history. Mr. Neron stated that these enrichment opportunities include access to an Artist in Residence, Art Camps, Theater Arts, and various tours to educate students on historical figures. Mr. Neron stated that the recommendation of the committee was for the Supervisor of Social Studies together with the Supervisors of Music and Art to review the program offerings and provide their recommendation.

Mr. Neron stated that the fourth presenter from Pre-Employment Training Program offered various workplace readiness skills training as well as potential internship programs for high school students. Mr. Neron stated that the recommendation of the committee was to have the Supervisor of Career and Technical Education review the work study program and provide a recommendation.

Mr. Neron stated that the Superintendent presented a proposal to the committee with regard to the opportunity to implement Teach to One at an additional school for the 2016-2017 school year at a reduced contract cost. Mr. Neron stated that New Classrooms had shared with the Superintendent the interest on the part of a philanthropist to contribute funding towards this program for the children of Elizabeth. Mr. Neron stated that a recommendation was provided to bring forth to the Board the opportunity to fund this initiative.

Ms. Bathelus thanked Mr. Neron for the reports.

#### Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Portugal Day

Mrs. Carvalho read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Nina excused himself from the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Coordinated Transportation Services 2016-2017 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Contract for Professional Services – Education Law Center

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we do this year to year and we have done this for a while now and asked Mr. Trujillo how long we have been doing this.

Mr. Trujillo stated that we have been doing this for as long as he has been here. Mr. Trujillo stated that last year it was not supported by some of you and he hopes they support it this time because they do important work. Mr. Trujillo stated that maybe we can double the funding because they get one dollar for every student.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Education Law Center has helped our district along with many other what are called former Abbott districts fight for a lot of funding that we have not been given over the years. Mr. Rodriguez stated that they met with David Sciarra and thanked them for everything that they do. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are giving them money to help that cause.

Mr. Trujillo stated that in the past we have also asked the City Council to do the same but they never really do. Mr. Trujillo stated that we asked the City Council to match our dollar per student and it is small cost but they never do.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission NonPublic Schools Textbook Program 2016-2017 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission NonPublic Schools Technology

Initiative Program 2016-2017 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Nina returned to the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Chapters 192/193 Services  
2016-2017 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Special Education Tuition  
Contract Agreement 2016-2017 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Agreement for Professional Services - Union County Educational Services  
Commission 2016-2017 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Food Allergy Awareness Month

Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

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, specifically, non-renewals and RIFs; interviews; N.D., F.N., J.P., G.Q., and P.Z.; settlement agreements, E.R., McCarter & English, and S.P.; contracts, specifically printing services, workers' compensation administration, benefits plans, and public relations services; Report of Special Counsel on purchasing; re-authorization of leases; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, K.V., A.R., C.K., P.S., and G.S.

The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

Mr. Trujillo asked if we are going to discuss the RIFs and will there be a resolution in private for that. Mr. Trujillo asked if part of the private discussion will be the layoffs.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to go into private session at 9:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez excused himself from the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to reconvene in public session at 12:00 a.m. to continue the meeting and take formal action.

Mr. Rodriguez returned to the meeting at 12:01 a.m.

Resolution – Appointment of Comptroller – Rajeev Malhotra

Mr. Kennedy read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing a Managed Care Organization – First MCO

July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves excused herself from the meeting at 12:03 a.m.

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing a Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator –

D & H Alternative Risk Source - July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: Mrs. Amin – 1



Ms. Bathelus stated that if you are going to abstain or say no you can't second a motion. Ms. Bathelus stated that she needs someone else to support the motion.

Mr. Trujillo stated that legal counsel advised him on the previous vote that since he made the motion to move the resolution that it may not be prudent for him to vote no so he would like the record to reflect that he abstained from voting. Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Williams to get him a legal opinion for that for clarification for the future. (The above vote reflects the abstention.)

Mr. Williams stated that he would like to get that legal clarification for his benefit.

Resolution – Authorizing One Month Extension of Existing Prescription, Dental, and Vision Insurance Coverage until July 30, 2016

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves returned to the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing a Public Relations Firm – Strategic Message Management, Inc.

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

Mr. Trujillo stated that he wants to enter into the record to let it be known that the firm that we are being asked to vote on has done or will do in the past and in the future, perhaps in the future, but in the past for sure political consulting work for seven members of this Board of Education.

Mr. Nina stated that the firm that we hired is on an as needed basis so it is basically at an hourly rate when we need the firm to represent the district.

Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Williams just so he is clear if there is no conflict in Mr. Williams' opinion for anyone voting in the affirmative for this even though this gentleman has done work on the campaigns, the political campaigns of the Board members.

Mr. Williams responded that is correct. Mr. Williams stated that whether or not he had contracts to do work on their behalf as a paid political consultant does not create a conflict of interest from this Board voting to retain his services as a public relations consultant nor does it preclude any of the members from voting in support of that contract. Mr. Williams stated that the contract is being proposed as an Unspecifiable Special Service as an exception to the local public contracts law.

Mr. Trujillo asked with a cap of \$50,000.

Mr. Williams responded yes.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Resolution – Authorization to Enter Into Contract – Bravo Print and Mail

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Resolution – Authorization for Board President and Administrator to Execute Two Leases for School Purposes – 1003 N. Broad Street and 221 and 227 Court Street

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Authorization to Participate in Save-A-Life Tour with Kramer Entertainment, Inc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez,

Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo commended Mr. Neron for bringing this to the attention of the district and recommending this. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is really going to benefit our high school students and it is a very serious topic. Mr. Trujillo stated that driving under the influence and texting is a big problem. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is great that Mr. Neron brought this and gives him credit when credit is due and it's a good job.

Ms. Bathelus asked Mr. Neron to explain.

Mr. Neron explained that as a result of a grant they established through the State government and the County government they have an Elizabeth Municipal Alliance where we provide drug and alcohol intervention and prevention programs. Mr. Neron stated that to introduce safe driving and healthy habits for our high school students moving into prom season we are bringing in two simulators to help exemplify what happens when driving under the influence or texting. Mr. Neron stated that we are going to focus on our high school seniors and unfortunately due to the limits of time we would like to do all juniors and seniors but we are going to target all the seniors. Mr. Neron stated that this is through grant dollars garnered through the City and the Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Neron stated that he has to recuse himself because he presented this project to the district. Mr. Neron thanked the Board for accepting it and we look forward to impacting our students in a healthy way.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2013-13482) – K.V.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2013-12579) – K.V.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Accepting Settlement Agreement and Release – McCarter & English

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez commended Mr. Williams and our other legal team for being able to put together this settlement agreement that will bring in over \$300,000. to the district. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we appreciate it and Mrs. Hugelmeyer is going to be using that money to be able to put more teachers in the classroom directly.

Resolution – Accepting Settlement Agreement and Release – E.R.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Resolution – Employee Separation Agreement and Resignation – J.P.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Resolution – Employee Separation Agreement and Resignation – F.N.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Resolution – Employee Separation Agreement and Resignation – P.Z.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Resolution – Employee Separation Agreement and Resignation – N.D.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Resolution – Termination of Employment Contract – G.Q.

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

Mr. Trujillo stated that back in January he had inquired about meetings that took place in November of last year prior to the reorganization meeting and Mr. Williams had explained to him that in those meetings several things were discussed and some of them spoke to the organization and positions within the organization. Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Williams if this position was discussed back in November. Mr. Trujillo stated that it seems to him that we Riced this individual for the third time and it seems like this is something that has been going on for a while and has been discussed. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is wondering if this is part of what Mr. Williams called the transition.

Mr. Williams stated that as he has previously indicated there were discussions about the transition and about restructuring of the Board. Mr. Williams stated that he does not believe and he does not recall any discussion about this particular decision back at that time. Mr. Williams stated that he does agree with Mr. Trujillo that the Rice notices have been sent out on two prior occasions and withdrawn as the Superintendent discussed with him and with others the ability to restructure and do other things in connection with this position. Mr. Williams stated that the ultimate conclusion that we arrive at tonight with the pending resolution was a recent decision and recommendation.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the previous two Rice letters were withdrawn and the action was never taken. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is his understanding that at the time a conflict among the Board members existed and didn't allow the five votes necessary to make the change within the chart that has since been cured as Board member Nina's aunt no longer works for the district. Mr. Trujillo asked if that is now cured.

Mr. Williams stated that he doesn't know where Mr. Trujillo got that understanding as to why the two earlier votes were not taken. Mr. Williams stated that he can only tell him that the discussions about the position itself, the budget related to the position, and the need for the funding for other budgetary and district needs, and those discussions have been ongoing for quite some time. Mr. Williams stated that as to what the decision was with respect to tonight his earlier answer stands and that is a recent decision.

Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Williams if the Superintendent had recommended this in January, let's say, to make this move would a conflict have existed.

Mr. Williams responded that he never examined that. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Trujillo what the nature of the conflict is that he is suggesting.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he is interested in knowing that a personnel move like this would require five votes in the affirmative and that may not be the case if a conflict exists. Mr. Trujillo stated that he believes that now the conflict has been cured.

Mr. Williams stated that five votes are always required in order to take this action.

Mr. Trujillo stated that five votes in the affirmative are required.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Neron, to take off the table Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities request from Club Valley.

The motion to take off the table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities request from Club Valley

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the request be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was not any old business to discuss, Ms. Bathelus asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he is making a request for documents.

Mr. Trujillo stated that his first request is for a copy of the dated complaint and/or grievance and supporting documents made to the Supreme Court's Union County District Ethics Committee by the Elizabeth Board of Education vs. K.M.

Mr. Trujillo stated that his second request is for the date and copy of the final disposition by the Supreme Court's Union County District Ethics Committee on the Elizabeth Board of Education complaint and/or grievance vs. K.M.

Mr. Trujillo stated that his third request is for the date of termination or separation of employment of K.M. and statement of cause or reason for separation of employment.

Mr. Trujillo requested that the Board Secretary record the Request for Documents that he has made at this Board meeting to be reflected in full in the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that once we get some information about what we are going to do with the lead testing he would like to request that we have a parent information session somewhere in the district where we can give parents full disclosure about what we are doing and the options. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it would be good to do it before the summer break and parents can then ask questions and can have some kind of relief. Mr. Rodriguez stated that earlier this week Governor Christie made this week Special Education Week. Mr. Rodriguez thanked all of the special education educators.

Mr. Neron stated that earlier this evening in the City of Elizabeth we lost one of our City employees, Mr. Dwayne Adams, who worked for Public Works for the City and served the City for many, many years. Mr. Neron sent his prayers to his family and his loved ones for the loss and stated that the City has lost a friend and dear employee. Mr. Neron asked everyone to keep his family in prayer.

On a motion by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Amin, the meeting was adjourned at 12:27 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:  
Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,  
Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8  
Negative: None

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