

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 31, 2016
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., in Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, 919 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Charlene Bathelus presented the following statement at 6:05 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. 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 was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Tuesday, May 24, 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 to this May 31, 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, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves (arr. 7:10 p.m.), Messrs. Neron, Nina, Perreira, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Absent: Mr. Trujillo – 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 Cedenro, 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 Tianna Pryor, eighth grade student at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29.

The *Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students in the Joyful Sounds Chorus at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29.

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

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

Ms. Bathelus thanked Paul Conte, commercial foods teacher and the students from Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy for the selection and preparation of the food. Ms. Bathelus thanked EEA President Joe Cortico and EASC President Ben Candelino for their support and sponsoring the food this evening for our teachers and educational service providers.

Ms. Bathelus recognized former Board President Francisco Gonzalez who was in attendance and thanked him for his continued support of the district.

Ms. Bathelus introduced students from the Joyful Sounds Chorus at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 who performed *As Long as We Have Love* by Stanley Schwartz, music teacher at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 and *What I Did For Love* music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus stated that Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn is being honored tonight in recognition of her outstanding dedication and commitment of 38 years of dedicated service to the children and community of Elizabeth. Ms. Bathelus stated that Linda Seniszyn began her career in the Elizabeth Public Schools at Madison-Monroe School No. 16 where she inspired many young boys and girls. Ms. Bathelus stated that she later became the first principal of Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 when it opened ten years ago and was instrumental in providing students with excellent educational experiences highlighted by the school being named one of twenty-five schools in the country in 2007 to be selected as a NASA Explorer School which became a multi-year partnership with NASA. Ms. Bathelus stated that in 2013 Linda Seniszyn was appointed as an Assistant Superintendent for Schools and has helped students throughout the Elizabeth Public Schools prepare for college and career success. Ms. Bathelus stated that Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn will be retiring at the end of this school year. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated Linda Seniszyn and presented her with a frame of individual tiles made by each school and a memory book filled with pages from each school.

Mr. Stanley Schwartz, music teacher at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 introduced Supervisor of Music Dennis Argul who performed a parody of Glory Days by Bruce Springsteen dedicated to Linda Seniszyn. Mr. Dennis Argul was accompanied by the Dr. Albert Einstein Academy band, the Joyful Sounds Chorus, and staff members at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29. Ms. Bathelus thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that we are recognizing Linda Seniszyn for a lifetime of excellence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Linda Seniszyn was exemplary in her dedication to helping students excel and her innovation in leadership is fueled by her passion to see each and every child succeed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that over the years she has interacted with so many teachers, principals, and community leaders all of whom pointed to Linda Seniszyn's relentless pursuit of what is best for children and the mastery with which she builds relationships. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Linda Seniszyn is rarely in her office during the school day and you are more likely to find her greeting students in schools, walking the halls with the students, or encouraging teachers in classrooms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Linda Seniszyn's tireless support of and belief in all students has created a culture at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 that has become contagious throughout the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she was seven years old and helping her mom set up her classroom at School No. 16 when she first Linda Seniszyn. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she was immediately struck by Linda's enthusiasm and warmth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that throughout

the years she would often listen to her mother share her beautiful experiences at School No. 16 that included Linda Seniszyn, Mr. Salinardo, Mr. Rocca, and Mr. Webb and these names were very familiar to her. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that later as years went by she had the pleasure of working with Linda on the development of school-based budgets and crafting language for the particularized needs assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it was during this time that she was able to admire Linda Seniszyn through a different lens. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the 2004-2005 school year we made recommendations to Pablo Munoz, former Superintendent of Schools, as to whom the principal for Dr. Albert Einstein Academy should be. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that every member of the leadership team recommended Linda Seniszyn and there was no doubt that she would serve as an outstanding leader for our new school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2013 she visited Linda to discuss the district's work and to request that she join her on a new journey as Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools honors Linda Seniszyn for having utilized teamwork and leadership skills to spearhead initiatives to increase student performance, promote safe learning environments, and establish partnerships with parents and community members at Madison-Monroe School No. 16, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and as the Assistant Superintendent for Schools.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn thanked the Board for the honor and stated that she has been blessed to have this wonderful career. Mrs. Seniszyn thanked everyone for their great support over the years.

Ms. Bathelus stated that tonight we are recognizing the teachers and education service providers who were selected to represent their schools by the 2015-2016 Governor's Educator of the Year Program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is committed to equity and excellence for all students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that excellence is achieved through high standards that ensure that all students grow to reach their highest levels year after year and are college and career ready as high school graduates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that fostering an organization and culture of high expectations for all students requires the commitment of our team members.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer congratulated the teachers and education service providers recognized by the 2015-2016 Governor's Educator of the Year Program including Christopher Paul Adamcik and Fern Perez, George Washington School No. 1; Lauren Bowers and Samuel Bernstein, Winfield Scott School No. 2; Ann Marie Dolan and Linda Swaggerty, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; George Ciggelakis and Andreia Giuca, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Blanche Scaturro and Tasheemah Rembert, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; David Martin and Jose Luis Moreno, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Vanessa Clarke and Rosaria Scaff, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Kristina Mitovski and Naimah Boone-Koon, iPrep Academy School No. 8; Debra Pugh and Jasmine Lee, Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; Magdalena Dabrowski and Dani Iemola, Elmora School No. 12; Nancy Carrero-Munoz and Jennifer Hernandez, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Karin Navas and Marilyn Tavormina, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Christine Lucia and Janine Potter, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Debra Alameda and Patricia Alpaugh, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; Gale English and Margherita Marino-Avella, Robert Morris School No. 18; Diana Streep and Jill Aller, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Suhail Campos and Sara LaFace, John Marshall School No. 20; Nina Armento and Maria Lado, Victor Mravlag School No. 21; Shana Richard and Christine Lillis-Flaherty, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Rachel Crocco and Ana Paniagua, Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23; Stephanie Alzate and Maria Iannacone, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25; Lori Abry and Deborah Leff, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Dayna DePeralta and Janet Mazzearella, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; Elizabeth McLaughlin and Cassandra Pedrosa, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; Cathy Bundy and Joanmarie Korn, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Liliana Dias and Karen Sheridan, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30; Eryn Casey and Elisa Molina-Lopez, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50;

Julian Acebo and Rebecca Okpych, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51; Analia Alves and Ann Green, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 52; Joanna Miles and Joseph Sanchez, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; Janice Torpey and Brian Geisler, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy; Guido Morsella and Erica Forbes, Elizabeth High School; Roza Aghekya and Anabella Carter, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Health and Public Safety Academy; Jeremy Freedman and Zenaida Downey, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; and Ana Pineiro and Annabella Sollaccio, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer and Board members congratulated the teachers and education service providers and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez recognized Joe Olear from Montclair State University and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools through a partnership with Montclair State University will participate in the Being United in Leadership Development (BUILD) project. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this project is funded by the New Jersey Department of Education as part of the Building Teacher Leadership Capacity to Support Beginning Teachers initiative and offers experienced teachers and school partners the opportunity to participate in a research-based professional development program to improve district-wide mentoring and induction policies and practices. Mr. Rodriguez stated that over the three year period of the grant, BUILD will develop a cadre of expert teacher leaders who will mentor pre-service and beginning novice teachers across the participating schools and districts. Mr. Rodriguez stated that BUILD will also work with district and school leaders to enhance their understanding of the importance of high quality supports for beginning teachers and examine and upgrade current district and school level policies and practices. Mr. Rodriguez stated that four Elizabeth Public Schools will participate in the BUILD project starting in September 2016 including Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, John Marshall School No. 20, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, and Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy. Mr. Rodriguez recognized Dara Buchta, Nancy Carerro-Munoz, Sofia Dias, Cheryl Ferry, and Joan Straussman, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Catherine Colon, Jessica Corsaro, Brenda McClinton, Arlene Morales, and Gail Smith, John Marshall School No. 20; Stephanie Alzate, Thomas Coyle, Michelle DelBene, Judith Mankowski, and Denise Rodriguez, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25; and Scott Donner, Laura Mucci, Henry Okolie, Nicole Riggans, and Marisa Tota, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron thanked EEA President Joe Cortico and EASC President Ben Candelino for their support and sponsoring the food this evening for our teachers and educational service providers. Mr. Neron stated that Senator Raymond Lesniak sent a citation from the State of New Jersey honoring the teachers and education service providers who were selected to represent their schools by the 2015-2016 Governor's Educator of the Year Program.

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.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, congratulated the teachers and spoke about special education.

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.

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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