

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

January 23, 2013
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on January 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., in the Dunn Sports Center, 151 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:40 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 Friday, January 18, 2013. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.”

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent records. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

Present: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Absent: None

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

Mr. Monteiro welcomed everyone to the Elizabeth Public Schools Night of Champions and stated that tonight we are celebrating excellence in athletics and the arts and are honoring three of our district’s championship teams, the Elizabeth High School Cheerleaders, Elizabeth High School Marching Band, and the Elizabeth High School Football Team. Mr. Monteiro thanked the parents, family, coaches, staff, volunteers and all the fans that supported these young men and women and stated that it is wonderful to see these young men and women get the recognition they so justly deserve for all their exceptional accomplishments.

Mr. Monteiro introduced distinguished guests on the dais including New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa, Commander of the Department of Community Affairs for the New Jersey State Police Major Gerald Lewis, Reverend Steffie Bartley, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan and US Bands representative Colleen Mack.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chantise Colon, Captain of the Elizabeth High School Cheerleaders.

The *Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Aaron Alcine, Low Brass Captain of the Elizabeth High School Marching Band.

Rev. Steffie Bartley, Pastor of New Hope Memorial Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Louis Ramos, Cornerback of the Elizabeth High School Football Team.

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

Mr. Monteiro introduced one of Elizabeth's own champions and commented that during his four years at Elizabeth High School the EHS Baseball Team on which he played won four state sectional championships. Mr. Monteiro stated that he was named an all-state pitcher in his senior year and went on to enjoy a successful pitching career at Yale University. Mr. Monteiro stated that he was determined to return to his roots and inspire students from his home town to achieve their dreams as he had and came back to Elizabeth and has helped guide the Elizabeth Public Schools to being recognized as New Jersey's No. 1 Urban Public School District. Mr. Monteiro welcomed Superintendent of Schools and former Elizabeth High School champion, Pablo Muñoz.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz welcomed everyone to our Night of Champions. Mr. Muñoz stated that a little over eight years ago the Elizabeth Board of Education decided that it wanted to transform the Elizabeth Public Schools to pursue excellence, to become one of the best school districts in New Jersey, and today the pursuit to become one of America's best school districts. Mr. Muñoz stated that along the way it became the envy of urban education in New Jersey and became the No. 1 Urban School District in New Jersey because of the hard work of our students in the classrooms. Mr. Muñoz stated that our core business is teaching and learning and during this transformation over the last eight years the Elizabeth Public Schools and its students and teachers have really accomplished amazing feats. Mr. Muñoz stated that the students have continually over the last eight years improved their academic performance on state tests and two highlights from 2012 testing are that 80% of the high school students who took the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) were proficient and over 80% of our fourth grade students were proficient in science. Mr. Muñoz stated that we are the home of three National Blue Ribbon Elementary Schools and most recently in 2012 the Washington Post, US News and World Report, and Newsweek recognized Elizabeth High School and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy as two of the best college preparatory high schools in the entire United States of America. Mr. Muñoz stated that in 2005 a little over 200 exams were administered in Advanced Placement and in 2012 over 1,300 Advanced Placement exams were taken by our high school students across the six high schools. Mr. Muñoz stated that today more and more students go on to two and four year colleges and many of our students are attending colleges including Stanford, MIT, Princeton, and Harvard. Mr. Muñoz stated that this is a special night because not only do we recognize that our artists and athletes are always students first but tonight we also recognize another element of the Board of Education's initiative to pursue excellence. Mr. Muñoz stated that we work on the whole child making sure they have a sound mind and body. Mr. Muñoz stated that we not only pursue excellence in academics but tonight's celebration is a celebration that will acknowledge our pursuit of excellence in athletics and the arts. Mr. Muñoz stated that tonight we celebrate the National Award of our Elizabeth High School Varsity Cheerleaders, the State and National Championship of our Elizabeth High School Marching Band, and State Championship and No. 1 State ranking of our Elizabeth High School Football Team. Mr. Muñoz stated that these achievements are the students' achievements, these achievements are the hard work of the teachers and coaches who work with our students every day during practice and during the events and these achievements are because of the courageous leadership of the Elizabeth Board of Education and its administrative team. Mr. Muñoz stated that he always hopes to dream big dreams and he hopes tonight is the beginning of continual championships by these very students and the students who come in the coming years. Mr. Muñoz congratulated the students, teachers, and coaches.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Pablo Muñoz. Mr. Monteiro recognized former Elizabeth Board of Education Presidents in attendance tonight including Rafael Fajardo, Marie Munn, and Armando DaSilva.

Mr. Monteiro stated that tonight we are privileged to have with us the Honorable Jeffrey Chiesa, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that Attorney General Chiesa has a long list of accomplishments including serving as Chief Counsel to Governor Chris Christie from January 2010 through December 2011 before being nominated to New Jersey Attorney General, serving as Executive Director of Governor Christie's transition team, Counsel to the U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Public Protection Unit in the Office of the U.S. Attorney from 2002 through 2009, and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame.

New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa thanked the Superintendent for the invitation and congratulated the Cheerleaders, the Band and the Football Team. Mr. Chiesa stated that what all of you have shown is that the great success that you have is a function of the gifts that you have been given but to perform as you have in the competitions and on the field you had to take lots of time to practice and trust each other. Mr. Chiesa stated that hopefully many of you will be able to continue in those activities for a long period of time. Mr. Chiesa stated that the challenges that you met as a team on the field, as a band and as cheerleading group are the same challenges you are going to find as you progress through life. Mr. Chiesa stated that what you are going to be able to remember is that when you confronted those difficult situations as a team you trusted each other, worked really hard and were able to overcome adversity time and time again and that is what excellence is all about. Mr. Chiesa stated that nights like this are a great time to continue what is a tremendous tradition in this school district. Mr. Chiesa stated that this whole City is celebrating and the parents, family, friends, Board of Education, and State Assembly members here tonight all think this is a great thing for this City and the public school education that you got here is top flight. Mr. Chiesa stated that all of you here have a sense of community, hard work and being a member of a team and the things you have learned from your coaches, teachers, and parents are things that you are going to carry with you for the rest of your life. Mr. Chiesa congratulated everyone and stated that this is an incredibly demanding and difficult thing to achieve and for one school to be able to celebrate three groups of championships is an amazing accomplishment.

Mr. Monteiro thanked New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa

Mr. Monteiro stated that tonight we are honored to have with us Major Gerald Lewis, Commander of the Department of Community Affairs for the New Jersey State Police. Mr. Monteiro stated that Major Lewis is one of the top commanding officers of the State Police who joined the force in 1987 and has been honored for his exceptional leadership including his outreach work to improve minority representation on the police force and for his work apprehending a carjacking suspect and saving a choking victim. Mr. Monteiro thanked him for being with us tonight.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we are also honored to have from the State of New Jersey Assemblyman Joseph Cryan and Assemblywoman Annette Quijano.

Assemblyman Joseph Cryan congratulated the band, cheerleaders, and football team. Mr. Cryan congratulated all the parents, faculty, and leaders in the school district celebrating the Night of Champions with children who actually deserve it, worked for it and earned it. Mr. Cryan stated that this will stay with you forever and the discipline that you learned throughout this process that made you a champion should stay with you because in life discipline gives you success and you all deserve it. Mr. Cryan stated that the football team is coming to Trenton on Monday and we are so excited to show you off to the rest of the State of New Jersey. Mr. Cryan thanked Board President Tony Monteiro and the Board for inviting us and we appreciate coming tonight and most importantly we appreciate what you have done. Mr. Cryan stated that he was there to watch the game against Union and also the amazing championship game against Piscataway and the greatest two minute finish in football. Mr. Cryan stated that the students, parents, and everyone here are the best and that E is for Elizabeth and E is for Excellence. Mr. Cryan congratulated the most amazing children here celebrating their successes.

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano thanked the Board for the invitation and commented that it is a pleasure to be here. Mrs. Quijano stated that on Monday the football players and coaches will be in Trenton and she will be able to say that our State Championship Team is the best in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Quijano stated that they will be on the State Assembly Chamber floor and she along with Assemblyman Cryan will present them to everyone in the Chambers including all of the Assembly members and everyone in the gallery. Mrs. Quijano stated that they did not want to leave out the Cheerleaders and Marching Band because they are important components of the success and tonight they have a Senate and General Assembly Citation for each member of the Cheerleading Squad and each member of the Marching Band. Mrs. Quijano stated that she is so proud of them and the hours of practice really did pay off and it is important academically that they can be anything they want as long as they work for it. Mrs. Quijano stated that the Cheerleaders, Marching Band members and Football Team are role models to every other student in the rest of the State of New Jersey and that with hard work everything is possible.

Mr. Monteiro thanked New Jersey State Assemblyman Cryan and Assemblywoman Quijano. Mr. Monteiro stated that now we are going to recognize all of our state champions.

Mr. Donoso stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is dedicated to recognizing championship teams who continually pursue excellence and contribute to the district's vision of becoming one of the best schools in America and that we are here tonight at this Night of Champions ceremony to honor the students who have performed at a championship level in athletics and the arts by demonstrating exceptional dedication, determination, and perseverance.

Mr. Donoso introduced a video presentation highlighting the Elizabeth High School Cheerleaders who won the 2012 First Place National Cheerleaders Association Spirit Award and National Championship Bid Winners. Mr. Donoso introduced Head Coach Sandra Evaristo.

Head Coach Sandra Evaristo introduced Assistant Coach Sharlama Mickens and cheerleaders Captain Chantise Colon, Shantise Byron, Doshanay Currie, Shanique Davis, Sadia Dean, B'Rianay Dempsey, Kaitlin, Gayle, Lucia Gimenez, Brianna Hamilton, Al'Shanique Hankins, Alyamisa Hankins, Makaila Harris, Shawnnah Hurd, Aniyah Lewis, Imani Miller, Leasia Miller, Samyah Myers, Kendrah Presley, Quylayzha Simms, Coyyona Smallwood, Aaminah Thomas, Karlicia Thomas, Ayiana Williams, and Princess Woodard.

Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the cheerleaders and coaches and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Perreira recognized the parents of the Marching Band who volunteer their time and thanked them on behalf of the Board of Education for their time and dedication. Mr. Perreira stated that the Elizabeth High School Marching Band is a group of talented and dedicated young men and women who are the two-time defending State and National Champions in the US Bands Group 5A and have gone undefeated in back-to-back seasons. Mr. Perreira introduced a video presentation highlighting the Elizabeth High School Marching Band. Mr. Perreira introduced our two Elizabeth High School Marching Band Co-Directors, Benjamin Schwartz and Wayne Dillon.

Band Director Benjamin Schwartz thanked everyone who came tonight to support the community, the school, and the achievements of the students who put in hours and hours of hard work. Mr. Schwartz stated that it has been an honor to direct this band and he is so proud of them and thanked everyone here for supporting the Marching Band which has a great long tradition. Mr. Schwartz stated that the Marching Band has had two straight years of undefeated seasons winning two State Championships and two National Championships. Mr. Schwartz thanked everyone and commented that it truly is an honor to be here tonight.

Band Director Wayne Dillon thanked everyone for making this night possible and congratulated the fantastic Football Team and Cheerleaders for a terrific season. Mr. Dillon stated that his job is easy with this band because he works with the greatest students. Mr. Dillon stated that when Mr. Cummings, Elizabeth High School Principal, first came to the school and asked the staff what is the best thing about this school, he responded the students. Mr. Dillon stated that it is absolutely the truth and he relishes the time that he spends with the students who work very hard and are diligent and it is a joy to be around them and share their success.

Mr. Dillon stated that this is not a one person job as we have 140 students on the field and introduced the technical assistants including Steve Almeida, Curtis Clark, Emmanuel Cruz, Elyse Delgado, Izzy Delgado, Amy Hadjusek, Brendan Lowe, James Prime, Jr., Jonathan Riley, and Minesh Shah.

Mr. Dillon introduced the band members including Shakiell Acevedo, Aaron Aldine, Melanie Aleman, Ericka Alfaro, Carl Barnes, Yazdale Bedoya, Xavier Beltran, Erick Bonilla, Alexis Brinkley, Miguel Calderon, Shaylene Calderon, Alyssa Carbone, Harold Carias, Luis Casas, Christina Castro, Lizbeth Cespedes-Moreno, Juan Chala, Amarilys Chaparro, Elizabeth Corral, Allison Crespo, Stevens Cruz, Florencia Curbelo, Daniel DaSilveira, Emily DelToro, Rodrigo Diaz, Destiny Dozier, Melvin Dye, Imany Dye, Paula Enriquez, Steve Enriquez, Johann Ernest, Matthew Esteves, Bruna Esteves, Malia Estrada, Daniel Faldraga, Joanna Farias, Jorge Farias, Kevin Ferreira, Monica Figueroa, Alec Fray, Ashley Fuentes, Kevin Gallardo, Jose Garcia, Brianna Garcia, Kassandra George, Brian Gomez, Gabriella Gomez, Hector Grande, Melissa Guevara, Ashley Gula, Gabriela Gutierrez, Iyanah Hawley, Alexis Hernandez, Sandra Hidalgo, Niyah Huff, Kaitlyn Iglesias, Andre Jordao, Raquel Jordao, Leyla Karim, Yadira Lazo, Dylan Luiz, Alexis Luna, Rey Maisonet, Brian Mata, Cynthia Matos, Michelle Megala, Lourdes Mendez, Christian Mendoza, Hector Meneses, Juan Mercado, Jhon Mesa, Michel Maz, Samuel Mino, Britney Moreira, Jakeel Munn, Keyla Noel, Sabrina Olivera, Brian Orozco, Dominique Paz, Matias Perez, Wendy Pesantes, Samantha Posada, Jennifer Ramirez, Bradley Ramirez, Luck Rasoanilana, Nayeli, Riano, Guillermo Rincon, Miguel Rivera, Paula Robayo, Lisa Rojas, Dixie Romero, Jesenia Rosa, Maritza Rosa, Emily Rosado, Christian Rosario, Jean-Carlos Rosario, Maria Saenz, Jessa Saint Laurent, Gieselle Salas, Isabel Salazar, Roberto Salcedo, Miguel Salcedo, Jose Santana, Lohanny Santos, Brianny Santos, Zakiel Saxton, Daquan Sessoms, Kevin Sidonio, Maura Socop, Chris Ann Solorzano, Jasmine Soltero, Cameo Steed, Christian Taveras, Maria Tayum-Lopez, Debah Tiah, Jeika Tixi, Luis Torres, Melissa Torres, Jayana Torres, Samuel Torres, Michelle Umana, Daniela Urrutia, Ana Valentin, Marvin Vargas, David Vasquez, Angel Veloz, Joao Vieira, Cristian Villa, Zipora Wade, George Zambrano, Jennifer Zelada, Julio Zelaya, and Dalila Zhunio.

Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the band members, directors, and technical assistants and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo stated that words can't describe how proud we are of all these kids and the parents are equally as proud and that it takes a lot of dedication and hard work and our kids are No. 1 and are National Champions. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is incredible how our kids can teach us so much and unite a City when they are successful. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is an honor to be here and watch the community come out and support our kids.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the Elizabeth High School Football Team has accomplished spectacular things this season, undefeated in winning the state sectional championship, capping an extraordinary title game with a 98 yard drive in the last minutes of the game to beat Piscataway 37-33. Mr. Trujillo stated that after the game they were awarded the NJN News 12 Dillon Memorial Trophy as the Number One team in New Jersey and finished as the Number One Public School Team, and Number Two overall in the state according to the Star Ledger. Mr. Trujillo introduced a video presentation highlighting the Elizabeth High School Football Team. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is pleased to introduce Head Football Coach John Quinn, the first coach in state history to win football championships in Groups 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Head Football Coach John Quinn congratulated the Championship Marching Band and Cheerleaders. Coach Quinn stated that it is his pleasure to introduce the best coaching staff in the State of New Jersey who does the work in the trenches every day. Coach Quinn introduced Assistant Coaches Kevin Butler, Ryan Clements, Daniel DiStasi, Ibrahim Halsey, Al-Sharik Hawkins, Austin Holman, Jonathan Maione, Ishmael Medley, Gregory Mobus, Gregory Oriscello, William Von Bischoffshausen, and Anthony Williams.

Coach Quinn introduced the football team including Hashim Al-Jahli, Samaad Ibn Mustafaa Bethea, DeVante Ali Bravo, Gustavo Briones, Kason Campbell, Oscar Candelo, Michael Castillo, Guervio Charles, Josue Cisneros, Esteban Collazos, Joshua Colon, Christopher DeBose, Dazhon Dickerson, Mikal Gamble, Umar Garner, Mauricio Gavilanes, Al-Shaquan Griffin, Jason Gustave, Kenny Gutierrez, Tyree Gutierrez, Jalaal Hall, Jamil Harmon, Darius Harris, Dante Harvey-Wilkins, Carlos Hernandez, Keion Hunter, Lloyd Jackson, Jr., Khalil Johnson, Fabrice Juin, Daniel Kilasi, Marquise Leak, David Lopez, Michael Lopez, Anthony Macias, Zaire Manigo, Akram March-Williams, Bahsil Marsh, Rinaldo Martinez, Jr., Jabriel McCray, Orlando Mejias, Richie Milcent, Ibyn Morrisette, Denzel Page, Fritz Paul, Akeem Polk, Faustino Quintanilla, Sir John Wesley Ragland III, Luis Ramos, Victor Rivera, Gary Rojas, Richy Rousse, Brad Samuel, Darrell Sanders, Nate Small, Guyland Stavien, DeWayne Stevens, Aaron Tate, Kerson Thelusma, Jahad Thomas, Derrick Thomas, David Tobe, Al-Kareem Turner, Ezekial Villafana, Phillip Walker, Kyle Ward, Davon Williams, and Pernell Williams.

Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the football players and coaches and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro stated that our champions we have recognized wouldn't be champions without the support of the parents, fans, and the Elizabeth Public Schools community who were behind them all season. Mr. Monteiro congratulated the Championship Football Team, National Championship Marching Band and the Cheerleaders, coaches and the parents and thanked everyone for attending.

On a motion by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Nazco, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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