

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

October 28, 2021  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on October 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy, 40 Morrell Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

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

Board President Jerry Jacobs presented the following statement at 6:46 p.m.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on October 15, 2021. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

We want to welcome everyone present here at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy and to our television viewers to this October 28, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

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

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

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

Present: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa (via online platform until 8:37 p.m.; then in-person), Charlene Bathelus (via online platform), Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres (via online platform), Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Stanley Neron (via online platform until 7:40 p.m.; then in-person), Stephanie Pestana (arr. 7:10 p.m. via online platform), Jerry Jacobs – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and members of the community were present.

Mr. Jacobs called for a moment of silence for the passing of Manuel Gonzalez, former Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Jacobs read a resolution honoring former Superintendent of Schools Manuel Gonzalez.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key

Pledge of Ethics

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer presented the community updates and stated that the presentation will be available on the district webpage.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Covid-19 screening for EPS team members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Executive Order No. 253, signed by Governor Phil Murphy on August 23, 2021, requires all preschool to grade 12 school personnel to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 by October 18, 2021 or be subject to Covid-19 testing at a minimum of one to two times per week. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in compliance with Executive Order No. 253, Covid screening is currently being offered to Elizabeth Public Schools team members at several school facilities throughout the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that leading the Covid screening efforts is Kamran Tasharofi, MD of Union County Healthcare Associates, who is an internal medicine physician and civil surgeon who has been in practice since 2000. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on staff at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Rahway, Dr. Tasharofi has served the Union County area in a variety of practice settings, from Central Jersey Health Care Associates in Elizabeth and Caring Hospice in Edison to his present positions as Medical Director at UCHA, in six locations including Elizabeth, and Grace Healthcare Services in Edison. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that he is also the Medical Director at Ascend Hospice, Alaris at Riverton, and Alaris at Care Connections at RWJ Rahway and he has authored several medical publications and participated in several clinical research efforts.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide for the Saturday and Afterschool Programs and stated that beginning in November, the Elizabeth Public Schools will be restarting its after

school and Saturday programs for students throughout the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the after school and Saturday programs that will be taking place include SAT Saturday Preparation Program, Standard Virtual Mathematics Tutoring, After-School Academic Program, STEM Academy Enrichment grades K-8, STEM Club Enrichment Program grades 9-12, Saturday Arts Enrichment grades 6-12, Bilingual Achievement Strategies Program grades 9-12 and Best of Both Worlds grade 9.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides on the Remediation Update for School Nos. 26 and 27. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the present time, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 and Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 are projected to open in December. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented an update of the remediation projects for each school and stated that, however, the timeline is dependent on the availability of equipment and the replacement of parts.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide on the bus transportation for students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that school districts throughout the state have been experiencing bus and bus driver shortages and our district is among them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that among our unsung heroes are our bus drivers and those who have been admirably filling in to alleviate the issues caused by driver shortages. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools warehouse laborers have been fulfilling their responsibilities as warehouse workers while also supporting the district's transportation department. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that some district bus drivers have even been performing double routes in support of families displaced by Hurricane Ida in September, driving as far north as Jersey City and as south as Avenel to ensure students continue to get to school to learn. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that their dedication to our students, displaced families, and district is extraordinary.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide on information for free flu shots. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Union County is offering free flu shots from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Hillside tonight, in Rahway on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and in Springfield on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide on the Amistad Collaborative Community Forum and stated that it will be held on November 16, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Amistad Collaborative Community Forum will be uniting the Elizabeth Public Schools and the community-at-large in a conversation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked everyone to join virtually to learn about the five whys including why is the Amistad Mandate a requirement, why is the Amistad Mandate relevant to your child's learning, why is it our responsibility as a community to ensure full implementation of this law, why is it important to plan for the road ahead, and why is it important to reflect on the contributions of the African American exposure in our EPS curriculum.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Pilot for Pearson's TestNav Connect. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was among two school districts in New Jersey to pilot Pearson's TestNav Connect platform during a special virtual administration of the Start Strong assessment for students at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31 and Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that school districts throughout New Jersey administered the Start Strong assessments this fall to satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools reached out to the New Jersey Department of Education for guidance about administering the Start Strong assessment to students at School Nos. 26 and 27 since they have started the school year virtually due to flood damage at their schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the State decided they wanted EPS to administer the Start Strong to students at both schools virtually, creating the opportunity for the district to pilot Pearson's new test administration

platform. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through the TestNav Connect platform, teachers can administer online tests to students testing from home, using video, audio, and chat during the online testing session. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students and teachers can also share their screens when necessary. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the NJDOE, Pearson, and EPS met to discuss administration logistics, allowing EPS to use its GoGuardian platform to monitor students as they were taking the Start Strong as well as offering the availability of TestNav Connect for monitoring purposes. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the district used TestNav Connect with two groups of students, testing each group in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for a total of four test administrations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that following the test administrations, the teachers from each group had the opportunity to provide feedback to the support team from Pearson about its ability to help monitor student progress throughout the test sessions as well as the platform's functionality from a hardware/software standpoint. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this vital feedback was well received and will be used by Pearson to inform platform improvements to provide an even greater experience between teachers and students in the event a virtual test administration is needed in the future.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal and the IT Department for their outstanding work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the whole TestNav Connect platform is in place and each and every day our students are supported.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented the New Jersey State Assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on April 14, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education announced that the United States Department of Education allowed the cancellation of spring 2021 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the same announcement stated that the administration of ACCESS for ELLs and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) will continue as scheduled. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that both assessments, ACCESS for ELLs and DLM, were administered to the appropriately identified populations of students who were attending school in-person between April 5 and June 11, 2021.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about Dynamic Learning Maps and stated that the DLM assessments are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom general state assessments are not appropriate, even with accommodations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the DLM assessments offer these students a way to show what they know and can do in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the DLM assessments are administered in grades 3-8 and 11 as an alternative to NJSLA assessments and just over 1% of students in Elizabeth meet the guidelines to take the DLM. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as a result of Covid-19, fewer students than usual participated in the DLM administration. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the DLM results for grades 3-8 and 11 in English language arts, science, and mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the DLM performance is reported at four proficiency levels including emerging, approaching target, at target, and advanced. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students who score at target and advanced are considered passing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the graph shows the percent of students passing each of the content areas by grade level. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students across grade levels performed better in ELA than in mathematics, with the one exception being grade 4. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students in grade 11 did significantly better in science than English language arts and mathematics.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the ACCESS for ELLs and stated that this assessment is administered to English Language Learners (ELLs) to determine the level

of English language that each student has acquired and the best placement for each student moving forward. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the ACCESS for ELLs assesses four language domains including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the assessment reports performance in all four domains and a composite score combining all four. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that due to Covid-19, fewer students than usual participated in the ACCESS for ELLs administration. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students who had returned to in-person learning and were potential candidates to exit from the bilingual program were prioritized. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the results for ACCESS for ELLs and stated that students who score in the 4.5 and above range for their overall score are considered for exiting from bilingual/ESL services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this year, with our focus on identifying students who may be ready to exit, we are reporting the results all together. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the percentages on the graph are for students who were already identified as possibly being ready to exit and it is not surprising that there are large percentages of students scoring at the higher levels. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the percentages of students in the entering, emerging, and developing levels have seen declines in their performance from 2020 to 2021 and will be in need of additional support.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides for Interventions and Supports. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for English language arts supplemental programs are available for general education students to support literacy instruction in grades K-12 including Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, iRead, Waggle, Cite-Smart, and MyAccess. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition, curricula and assessments have been revised to integrate multicultural resources, NJ Student Learning Standards, and scaffolded reading and writing instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additional supplemental programs include NearPod, Flocabulary, and NewsELA to support engagement and vocabulary development. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that professional development is being provided to utilize resources and targeted strategies that support curriculum. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that after school and Saturday programs are available to improve student achievement in grades K-12 and the expansion of job-embedded coaching through Children's Literacy Initiative for grades K-5.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides for interventions and supports for English language arts for students with disabilities include utilization of DRA assessment in all grade levels for in-class support and learning language disability (LLD) English programs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the DRA progress monitoring goals are targeted during guided reading. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue with Sonday Reading in all programs in grades K-8 to increase reading fluency and phonemic awareness in a multisensory approach; continue to utilize abridged literature for general education curriculum in LLD English; ensure that in-class support teachers provide interventions in areas of weakness according to item analysis on benchmark assessment and IEP goals and objectives; revision of general education curriculum for special education students with emphasis on multisensory learning, tiered instruction, and NJ SLS; district and school level data analysis of benchmarks, evidence statements, and root cause analysis with teachers in grades K-8; and Handwriting Without Tears for autism/MC/MD populations.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides for interventions and supports for English Language Learners. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the transitional bilingual program is being sustained to prepare students for a monolingual, general education setting by using native language to strengthen academic performance in English. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there is alignment to the general education English language arts curriculum and benchmark assessments in both bilingual ELA and ESL with Thinking Maps/Frame of Reference written into curricula to address,

compare, and contrast structural elements and character description; emphasis in curricula on metacognitive strategies, multicultural/diverse and authentic texts for read-alouds, guided reading, texts at various DRA/EDL levels that are theme-aligned, and classic texts; alignment of curricula to the New Jersey Curricular Frameworks; continued revision of Project Based Learning activities and curricula to increase student choice and voice; and additional practice in Research Simulation Tasks, Literary Analysis Tasks, Narrative Writing Tasks, and types of writing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we continuously review demographics and languages spoken to hire appropriate personnel and identify supports. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all bilingual and ESL programs serve to prepare ELLs for a general education setting by using native language and strategies to develop English language proficiency to strengthen academic performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the area of English language arts, the bilingual department and ELA department collaborate in order to ensure an alignment between the general education ELA curriculum and benchmark assessments and both the bilingual ELA and ESL curricula and benchmark assessments as it relates to native language instruction and scaffolding. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the bilingual and ESL department continuously reviews academic and demographic data to provide students with appropriate and targeted academic and social and emotional supports. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the department support, professional development, materials, and enrichment programs focusing on effective English language arts strategies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that interventions and supports for ELLs are also enhanced by providing bilingual/ESL teachers with coaching opportunities made available by district bilingual /ESL coaches, CLI early literacy specialists, and consultants. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition to providing professional development through coaching, district professional development days and department meetings are leveraged to further develop teaching and learning strategies, inclusive of districted approved instructional materials and online learning platforms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through the use of various grant funds, district sponsored enrichment programs have been designed to target the academics and social and emotional needs of ELLs.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides showing the interventions and supports for general education students in mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the interventions and supports include curricular alignment to the New Jersey Curricular Framework; Thinking Maps/Frame of Reference written into curricula to organize student thinking processes; problem solving to include extended constructed response questions and low floor-high ceiling tasks; vertical progression for each math concept is outlined within the K-5 curriculum for acceleration or intervention; continue to address curricular changes, effective engagement strategies, differentiation, the use of manipulatives, and collaborative lesson planning for grades K through Algebra II; dedicated days for NJ SLA released items and Illustrative Mathematics for grades 6 through Algebra II; implementation of calculator and non-calculator active standards for grades 6 through Algebra II; clarification and examples of NJ SLS mastery for grades K through Algebra II embedded within the unit plans; NJ SLA released illustrative mathematics items embedded within pacing guide for grades 6 through Algebra II; adjusted pacing calendar to prioritize major and priority content standards; incorporated prerequisite lessons necessary based on previous year's district benchmark data results; embedded reteach opportunities throughout the unit plans based on district benchmark results and teacher feedback; provided opportunities for grade level fluency diagnosis and practice throughout the curriculum in K-5; NJ SLA mathematics intensification plan for grades 6 through Algebra II; and instructional coaches support teachers through the district in grades K-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the interventions and supports include implementation of mathematics programs such as enVision in grades K-7; Agile Mind:

Intensified Algebra for grade 8; Carnegie Learning High School Math Solution for Geometry, Algebra I Advanced, and Algebra II for high school courses; continue to utilize ST Math for grades K-5; SuccessMaker for grades K-8; MATHia for Geometry, Algebra I Advanced, and Algebra II; provide on-site coaching with consultants for envision for grades K-7; ST Math for grades K-5; Agile Mind: Intensified Algebra I for grade 8; Carnegie Learning for Geometry, Algebra I Advanced, and Algebra II; principals participate in district leadership meetings with math department for grades K-5, 8, Geometry, Algebra I Advanced, and Algebra II; guidance document provided to principals to support instruction in grades K-5 and 8, Geometry, Algebra I Advanced and Algebra II; continue to use Agile Mind, enVision, and Carnegie Learning interactive tools and digital manipulatives for grades 6-8, Geometry, Algebra I Advanced, Algebra II; provide High School Saturday Intensification Program to support Geometry and Algebra II; provide High School Saturday SAT and Advanced Placement Programs to support college preparation; provide selected students in grades 3-12 with after school tutoring with certified Carnegie Learning Tutors; Implement Moving with Math for kindergarten; Building Fact Fluency for grades K-5; Legends of Learning; virtual simulations, tutorials, and gamification during the Mathematics After School Academics program in grades K-5 and Utilize Agile Mind Academic Youth Development Program to address social emotional needs and metacognition to build math confidence in grades 6-8 Mathematics After School Academics Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that curricular revisions have been made to prioritize standards and address skills that were not mastered in prior years. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that reteach opportunities and basic math fact practices were embedded in curriculum to support struggling learners. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we continue to provide job-embedded coaching to support teachers in grades K-12.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides showing the interventions and supports for students with disabilities for mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in order to assist our students with disabilities in mathematics we will utilize a variety of math interventions in our various special education programs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that these programs allow our teachers to monitor students' progress as well as pinpoint any areas where our students are struggling. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this data is used to create engaging lessons for our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the interventions and supports include curricular changes; Envision grade 3 curriculum for language and learning deficient classes; alignment to the New Jersey Curricular Framework; effective engagement is written into unit plan; differentiation and vertical progression for each topic is included for intervention; use of Moving with Math Foundations and Connections for grades K-4 to address skills not yet mastered; professional development; accountable talk and engagement to increase student voice; TouchMath for autism and MC/MD special education students; and IXL math intervention program for grades 6-8 and high school.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the interventions and supports for English Language Learners (ELLs) for mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all bilingual and ESL programs serve to prepare students for a general education setting by using native language and strategies to develop English language proficiency to strengthen academic performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the bilingual/ESL department and mathematics department collaborate in order to ensure that the general education math curriculum and Benchmark Assessments are accessible to ELLs by means of translations and scaffolding. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that interventions and supports for ELLs are also enhanced by providing bilingual/ESL teachers with coaching opportunities made available by district bilingual/ESL coaches, enVision Mathematics, Agile Minds, workshops, and consultations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer

stated that district professional development days and department meetings are leveraged to further develop teaching and learning strategies, inclusive of district approved instructional materials and online learning platforms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through the use of various grant funds, district sponsored enrichment programs have been designed to target the academics and social and emotional needs of ELLs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the ELLs department support includes bilingual/ESL instructional coaches providing focused support to ELLs of other languages; bilingual/ESL supervisors and instructional coaches participate in envision Mathematics and Agile Minds workshops and consultations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the professional development is for 15-hour sheltered instruction training based on understanding ELLs and instructional practices applicable to content areas and in envision Mathematics and Agile Minds. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the materials utilized are in native language to provide a concrete, representational, and abstract approach to learning mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the translation of mathematic materials and online platforms such as SuccessMaker and IXL better support the development of mathematical skills. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the enrichment programs focus on effective math strategies for Point of Entry for grades K-8, Bilingual Achievement Strategies Program for grades 9-12, and Best of Both Worlds for grade 9. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that concluded her presentation.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for the informative presentation and asked if the Board members had any questions or comments.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the Superintendent and stated that she is happy to see this in place. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is impressed with the hard work of our staff and all our district is able to offer based on the needs of our students.

Mr. Jacobs thanked the Superintendent, staff, and teachers who successfully rolled out our testing that other large districts did not.

Mr. Jacobs presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The time limit will be strictly enforced and audio transmission will be terminated at the end of three minutes. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participation shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced; no personal attacks on individuals; no vulgar or indecent language; a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting; speakers should refrain from naming individuals; and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mr. Jacobs called upon the first public participant, Nikita Clarke-Huff, to address the Board.

Nikita Clarke-Huff spoke about an extra work payment problem.



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

Luann Breese spoke about special education.

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

Lynda Dellipoali spoke about special education and problems with the food served in the cafeterias.

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

Maria Echavarria spoke against vaccines.

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

Maria Lorenz spoke about special education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Medeiros DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria Medeiros DaRassi spoke about problems with the Covid testing schedule.

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

Ms. Bathelus asked about the secretarial payment problem.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that we will look into this matter tomorrow and provide a response to the Board.

Ms. Bathelus asked about problem with the food in the cafeterias.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that we received a couple of concerns and they were forwarded to the Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Director visited several schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, via an online platform, to address the concerns.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt explained the strict procedures set by the US Department of Agriculture which are followed in each school.

Mr. Neron asked about the pictures representing the food and if they were brought to their attention immediately to make sure they could be corrected or were they reported the next day or later.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the concerns were reported items by parents. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that some reports have images attached and others are just communication.

Mr. Neron stated that he and his fellow Board members took tours of several schools and had lunches with the students. Mr. Neron stated that overall, the students don't like the school lunches. Mr. Neron stated that if there are issues, then don't let it lay. Mr. Neron responded to another parental concern about an EpiPen on the bus.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that she will look into this matter and get an answer.

Ms. Bathelus thanked Mr. Neron for asking about the EpiPen since this parent comes every meeting.

Mr. Neron stated that the Superintendent explained that she will look into this matter.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he and his fellow Board members visited schools and talked to the students who said for the most part the lunch is the same as before the pandemic.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that when we receive complaints they are given to the Superintendent and then given to the Director and action is taken.

Mr. Neron excused himself from the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Jacobs stated that we will go tab by tab to review the agenda and each board member may ask questions.

Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2021  
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of August 2021

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Personnel Report  
Supplemental Personnel Report

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that there is a teacher shortage and it is a national problem.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we had a successful job far and the majority of candidates were applying to be substitute teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this will fill the much needed substitutes for long-term leaves.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer gave a synopsis of the report.

Tuition Report

Supplemental Tuition Report

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigative Results

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is happy to see the agreement with New Jersey City University for students to have the opportunity to earn college credit for the Global Business Course.

Mr. Neron returned to the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

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

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that she is pleased to see the contract with Inspired Instruction for professional development for special services.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on November 2<sup>nd</sup> there is a full day of professional development training for teachers and staff.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is happy to see the contract with VIP Community Services for parent workshops.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the parent and family engagement workshops will be held virtually with the parents. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are taking every precaution with Covid and the parents appreciate the virtual opportunity especially if there are childcare issues.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the contract with ServPro.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that this was an emergency situation with over thirteen feet of flood water in School No. 26 due to Hurricane Ida.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if the cost is covered by FEMA.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that FEMA covers part of the cost.

Mr. Malhotra explained that after insurance coverage we get seventy-five percent back.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he visits School No. 26 often and stated that ServPro removed the gym floor and had huge blowers in the school. Mr. Jacobs stated that it needs to be cleaned and sanitized before repairs.

Mr. Neron asked if they remove the flooring.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that they removed two layers of flooring and cut the gypsum board and sheetrock eighteen inches from the floor to allow for thorough drying and sanitizing.

#### Miscellaneous Communication

Mr. Jacobs requested a report on the committees from each chairperson.

#### Finance Committee – Chairperson Stanley Neron

Mr. Neron stated that the Finance Committee met on October 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the transfer of \$12 million from the Energy Savings Improvement Program financing plan to district capital funding, a reduction from \$43.7 million to \$31.5 million. Mr. Neron stated that the committee recommended engaging the assistance of an underwriting firm to procure the financing of the \$31.5 million under the Energy Savings Improvement Program.

#### Safety Committee – Chairperson Maria Carvalho

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the Safety Committee met on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer and Director of Security Matthew Glackin presented an overview of the Division of Security that included staffing of 153 security guards for 37 schools and their responsibilities. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the role and responsibilities of the investigators in accordance with the job description were discussed. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the annual training for school security drills and exercises in the overall emergency management plan was reviewed and the committee discussed school building access and visitor policy. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the Superintendent and Director of Security Matthew Glackin discussed the cooperation and collaboration between the Board of Education and the Elizabeth Police Department. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the committee was provided with information regarding employees holding a commercial license and compliance with the Department of Transportation regulations including the annual physical examination and the random drug and alcohol testing conducted twice a year through a third party company. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the committee recommended referring Board Policy 4119.23 Employee Substance Abuse to the Policy Committee requesting expansion of the drug and alcohol testing section of the policy.

#### Clinical Committee – Chairperson Diane Barbosa

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the Clinical Committee met on October 21<sup>st</sup> to review the protocols for Covid. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the Superintendent and Nurse Coordinator Marie Noonan reviewed the protocols which are aligned to the CDC guidelines, NJ Department of

Health, and also the EBOE Guidebook. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee was provided with information regarding contact tracing, notification, vaccinated and unvaccinated staff, and Covid testing update. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee was provided information about the communications to parents for immunizations, nurse vacancies, and the Healthy Student Wellness Program for vision screenings. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee was briefed on the current status of all facilities.

#### Special Education Committee – Chairperson Diane Barbosa

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the Special Education Committee met on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the Superintendent presented the table of organization for the Division of Special Services and discussed the current staffing in the schools. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee reviewed the special education transportation for in district and out-of-district and transportation support. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee was provided an update regarding the two meetings held by the SEPAC general executive committee and the general parent meeting currently scheduled for December. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee was provided with the schedule for Special Olympics and special needs students will be participating in Track and Field activities in Spring 2022.

#### Claims List

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Resolution – National Parental Involvement Day

Resolution – Puerto Rican Heritage Month

Resolution – Veteran’s Day

Resolution – National French Week

Resolution – Anti-Litter Campaign

Resolution – Adoption of New and Revised Policies

Resolution – Modification of Professional Services Contract – Public Relations Firm  
Strategic Message Management, Inc.

Resolution – Modification of Professional Services Contract – Auditor  
Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

Resolution – Amended Student Transportation – Durham School Services

Resolution – Contract – Carnegie Learning, Inc.

Resolution – Remembering Manuel Gonzalez

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Jacobs added the above to the agenda.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked the Superintendent to explain the state assessments.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer stated that the NJ Department of Education submitted to the US Department of Education for the Start Strong Assessment to serve as a baseline for literacy, mathematics, and science.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel matters, specifically, supplemental personnel report; legal matters, specifically, Energy Savings Improvement Programming financing; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, M.N. and K.G. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to go into private session at 9:14 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa, Charlene Bathelus (via online platform), Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres (via online platform), Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Stanley Neron, Stephanie Pestana (via online platform), Jerry Jacobs – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Chevres excused herself from the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Neron excused himself from the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to reconvene in public session at 10:57 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via online platform), Mmes. Carvalho, Goncalves (via online platform), Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

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

5141.10	Policy	Face Coverings
6140	Policy	Curriculum Adoption

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2017-33825) – K.G.

Resolution – Appointment of Energy Savings Improvement Program Underwriter

Mr. Jacobs asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda:

Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2021

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of August 2021

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Supplemental Tuition Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results

Authorizations Report  
 Supplemental Authorizations Report  
 Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers  
 Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds  
 Award of Contracts Report  
 Miscellaneous Communication – Committee Reports  
 Claims List  
 Resolution – National Parental Involvement Day  
 Resolution – Puerto Rican Heritage Month  
 Resolution – Veteran’s Day  
 Resolution – National French Week  
 Resolution – Anti-Litter Campaign  
 Resolution – Adoption of New and Revised Policies  
 Resolution – Modification of Professional Services Contract – Public Relations Firm  
     Strategic Message Management, Inc.  
 Resolution – Modification of Professional Services Contract – Auditor  
     Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP  
 Resolution – Amended Student Transportation – Durham School Services  
 Resolution – Contract – Carnegie Learning, Inc.  
 Resolution – Remembering Manuel Gonzalez  
 Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2017-33825) – K.G.  
 Resolution – Appointment of Energy Savings Improvement Program Underwriter

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Union County Office of Veterans Services), Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Union County Office of Veterans Services), Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report – G.D.), Goncalves (abstain – Award of Contracts Report – Union County Office of Veterans Services), Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron (abstain- 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report – E.R.; abstain- Authorizations Report), Jacobs – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Neron returned to the meeting at 11:00 p.m. and recorded his vote which is included in the above.

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

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in

writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented highlights from Inside EPS including Confronting Climate Change in Elizabeth with Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy among several honored guests along the Elizabeth River Trail to detail the work being done locally to preserve green spaces and address climate issues; EHS Soccer Players Ring Opening Bell at the NY Stock Exchange as part of a visit to the NYSE through the support of Abbott, the Real Madrid Foundation, and the Ducatus Foundation; U.S. News & World Report Ranks School Nos. 22 and 7 Among Top 50 Elementary and Middle Schools in New Jersey; Elizabeth Athletics Host 40 Year Reunion of 1981 EHS Football Champs; EHS Marching Band Best Overall at NJ Marching Band Directors Association Competition; and the EPS Hosts Successful Teacher Job Fair.

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

Mr. Jacobs thanked his colleagues for their support and thanked the New Jersey Legacy Foundation and Kim Nesbitt Good for the Juneteenth commemorations.

On a motion made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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