

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

November 15, 2010
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on November 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., in the Dunn Sports Center, 151 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Carlos Trujillo presented the following statement at 7:17 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 Wednesday, November 10, 2010. 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 November 15, 2010 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 one hour prior to the advertised 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.”

Present: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Mrs. Munn, Messrs. Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo – 8

Absent: Mr. DaSilva – 1

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Board Attorney Kirk Nelson, Esq., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Aida Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Executive Director of Human Resources/Labor Attorney Karen Murray, Comptroller William Greene, and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Trujillo introduced Board Member Francisco González who welcomed everyone and stated that last year there were 275 students who achieved a perfect score and this year we are celebrating 330 students who achieved a perfect score of 300 on the NJASK State Assessment. Mr. González congratulated the students and the parents for their continued support and commented that next year we will have 400 students with perfect scores.

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 Raymond Bally, eighth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31.

The *Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by the students in the Jazz Choir at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31.

Mr. Trujillo introduced the students in the Jazz Choir at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 who performed *As Long as We Have Love* by Stanley Schwartz, music teacher at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29. Mr. Trujillo thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Deacon Joseph Coscia of Evangel Chapel gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Catarina DaSilva, eighth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31.

Mr. Trujillo introduced the students in the Jazz Choir at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 who performed two additional songs, *Cantate Domino*, composer unknown, and *Seasons of Love* by Jonathan Larson. Mr. Trujillo thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Trujillo introduced Superintendent Pablo Muñoz who welcomed everyone to the Dunn Sports Center to celebrate the students who achieved a perfect score on the NJASK State Assessment. Mr. Muñoz commented that *Seasons of Love* is one of his favorite songs and has powerful lyrics referencing how you measure the life of a man. Mr. Muñoz stated that tonight we gather to recognize the children who excelled academically last year, the teachers who helped our students learn last year and to recognize our top ten schools and our top ten preschools. Mr. Muñoz stated that we converted Dunn Sports Center, which usually holds a capacity crowd of 4,000 for athletic excellence, into a large stadium to recognize academic excellence.

Mr. Muñoz stated that through the years since 2005 before the Board made a change in direction, there has been an increase in the number of perfect scores, that in 2005 there were 12 perfect scores, 2006 there were 45 perfect scores, 2007 there were 23 perfect scores, 2008 there were 74 perfect scores and that in 2009 there were 275 perfect scores. Mr. Muñoz stated that tonight we are happy to acknowledge the number of perfect scores including 138 perfect scores in third grade with 137 in mathematics and 1 in language arts, 53 perfect scores in fourth grade mathematics, 47 perfect scores in fifth grade mathematics, 28 perfect scores in sixth grade mathematics, 32 perfect scores in seventh grade mathematics, and 32 perfect scores in eighth grade with 27 in mathematics and 5 in science. Mr. Muñoz stated that for 2010 there are 330 perfect scores in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mr. Muñoz stated that since 2005 there has been a change of 2,650% in the quality of teaching and perfect scores in the Elizabeth Public Schools and congratulated the students, teachers, parents and the Elizabeth Board of Education for providing an excellent education. Mr. Muñoz stated that the work we do happens every day in the classroom but it doesn't happen alone, that we have many partners that help us, often times it is the teachers, principals and parents working together but we also have partners from outside the community that help us focus on the instructional core of the work in the classroom. Mr. Muñoz stated that one of our partners is the Panasonic Foundation that has been working with us for the last two years and is planning to be with us for at least ten years to make sure we transform this school district into one of the best school systems in the State of New Jersey, then one of America's best and eventually into a world class school system. Mr. Muñoz introduced Panasonic Foundation Executive Director Larry Leverett.

Mr. Larry Leverett, Executive Director of the Panasonic Foundation, commented that it is an honor to be a partner with the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mr. Leverett stated that the Panasonic

Foundation works with 9 school districts across the country and the Elizabeth Public Schools is the only one in New Jersey. Mr. Leverett stated that the Panasonic Foundation is so honored to work with the School Board, administrators, and teachers in Elizabeth. Mr. Leverett congratulated the 330 students who achieved a perfect score and stated that a perfect score is no small achievement, that the students here tonight are the promise of tomorrow, ambassadors of the future to improve the City of Elizabeth, the State of New Jersey and the country, that they are geniuses capable of achieving great things. Mr. Leverett stated that the students need to tell their younger siblings and friends that they need to work hard to become smart and that the students here tonight have demonstrated that they have what it takes. Mr. Leverett stated that we are also celebrating the teachers who work with the children and their contributions. Mr. Leverett stated that the parents need to keep supporting their children and everyone needs to maintain the focus on the vision to keep Elizabeth one of the best school districts in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Leverett stated that a lot of people believe in you, that this is a significant accomplishment and that the Panasonic Foundation salutes all of you for a job well done and next year we will have 500 students with perfect scores.

Mr. Trujillo thanked Mr. Leverett and the Panasonic Foundation for their commitment to the Elizabeth Public Schools and stated that the Panasonic Foundation really cares about the education of the children. Mr. Trujillo stated that he looks forward to working with the Panasonic Foundation for many years.

Mr. Trujillo commented that he is very proud to be here tonight, that last year this ceremony was held in a large auditorium, that he knew then that we would continue to go in the right direction and predicted last year that this ceremony would be held in the Dunn Sports Center so everyone would fit. Mr. Trujillo stated that he dreamed that someday we will have to hold this somewhere even bigger possibly Williams Field because our children will continue to succeed and continue to bring this kind of results.

Mr. Trujillo stated that although we celebrate perfection tonight he is reminded that we are not perfect and that perfection is so hard to come by, that in the real world Elizabeth is a place that continues to change and sometimes we have to look at those imperfections to know that we have a problem. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Elizabeth Board of Education knows that all children are not performing at the level they need to be, that we admit that and by admitting it we have a plan and continue to work towards the goal because we believe every child can learn and achieve at a very high level. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are those in our community who claim to represent us and he is reminded of a letter he just received recently which really worries him. Mr. Trujillo stated that in November 2007 a thirteen year old boy, Elijah Henderson, who was wandering the streets of the Elizabethport section, was shot to death and his friend was shot and survived. Mr. Trujillo stated then that Elizabeth has a gang problem and they told him to keep his mouth shut that this not something they want to talk about. Mr. Trujillo asked how can we find a solution to a problem that we fail to even admit that we have. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has no problem admitting it, that he sees it every day, that he knew then what he knows now, that we have a problem and our children are at risk every day. Mr. Trujillo stated that the letter he received recently really affected him and that he read it several times. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't want to vilify the police officers who are represented by this union and this attorney who wrote this letter but it scares him to think that the leadership of the Elizabeth Police Department wants to blame our kids for what is happening in the street. Mr. Trujillo stated that is not fair and he won't stand here and take it, that when he was elected in 2007 for the first time and re-elected, the citizens gave him not only the privilege and the honor but the great responsibility to be an advocate on behalf of the children of the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that no one can sit here and represent the people and say that they do unless they're willing to face the truth. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is not something that this Board of Education alone can resolve, this isn't something that the Police Department of Elizabeth can solve alone, not the Union County Prosecutor's Office, not the municipal government and not the Mayor. Mr. Trujillo stated that until we all agree that we have a problem and we all are willing to sit at a table and come with solutions it will only get worse. Mr. Trujillo stated that everyone needs to think about this, that we don't live in a perfect world and these things happen. Mr. Trujillo asked now what do we do,

do we stop operating or just ignore the problem, that when a bank gets robbed do we ignore the fact that we have bank robbers in the world and take all of our money out of the bank, and that when a gas station gets robbed does the gas station owner close and stop pumping gas? Mr. Trujillo stated that they do not, that first they admit they are at risk and then come up with solutions, and that ignoring it is not going to make it go away.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the achievement of the students here is incredible, that they achieve because parents take the time to sit with their children, that their first classroom is at home, that parents need to send their children to school prepared and meet their obligations and their expectations which we set for them, that every year we raise the bar and the children are working harder. Mr. Trujillo stated that out in the real world, outside of our schools, children will make choices and when a child wants to join a gang we offer them choir, basketball, volleyball, football and afterschool activities, that when they're at risk we extended the school day, and that we are working hard but we cannot do it alone. Mr. Trujillo stated that parents who care have children who succeed. Mr. Trujillo stated that your children are our biggest responsibility and urged parents to continue their commitment, support the educators, and thank the principals and teachers. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are many good teachers in Elizabeth and that one of our core beliefs and commitments is to recruit, develop, retain, and celebrate world class teachers. Mr. Trujillo commended the Superintendent whose job is not easy and has to balance what is good for the children with the exterior pressure of those who think they know what's good for the children, that we trust him and have to continue to support him. Mr. Trujillo stated that the administrators who run their schools, sometimes short-staffed, need to be recognized and appreciated as well as the teachers who wake up each morning and leave their families to go to a classroom where there are fifteen or sixteen children all eager to learn coming from very diverse groups in Elizabeth, and that the teachers do their job and are getting results. Mr. Trujillo commented that we can continue this success and agreed with Mr. Leverett that next year we will have 500 or more students achieve perfect scores.

Mr. Trujillo and Mr. González recognized the students who received a perfect score on the NJASK State Assessments – Grade 3 Mathematics including Tyrell G. Michuki, Brianna Ortiz, George Washington School No. 1; Luis Jurado, Nicholas S. Lacorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Nigel Bailey, Xochitl Mendez, Cristina Ortiz, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Bayron Quintanilla, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; Jamine Chen, Alexis Hernandez, Guillermo Pena, Stiviny O. Silva, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Leslie Avecillas, Lennin E. Galan, Denisse Gonzalez, Michelle Herrera, Mitesh Narotam, Somin Sawiris, Yanabi Sierra, Sabrina Silva, Varrianna L. Siryon, Geena Tutundzic, Jason Wong, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Perfecto Castillo, Jacqueline Gallego, Nestor Garcia, David Hernandez-Guiro, Laleska Olivera, Justin O'Rourke, Breanna Patino, Elmora School No. 12; Victor Figueroa, Jr., Carolina Herrera, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Thomas Alvarez, Sima Maldonado, Alberto Polanco, Alexander Salazar, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Reynaldo M. Arias, Jan Jairo Calle, Xavier Hernandez, Jose Magana, Angel G. Quiles, Nicole S. Rodrigues, Kandy Torres, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Kimberly S. Campos, Christopher Carmona, Nadeem Elmahroukey, Brian Thomas Kelly, Gisselle Negron, Bianca Ortiz, Richard Sarmento, Jahson K. Williams, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; Carlos L. Morales, Steven Urdaneta, Theodore Roosevelt School No. 17; Melanie Garcia-Vargas, Stephanie E. Rios, Robert Morris School No 18; Brittney Hope, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Nicholas F. Alvarez, Ky'Ron Boyce-Tucker, Sharrod Burns, Brisa N. Garis, Andre Hudson, Rashaun Hudson, Jhani Renee Jean, Aaron Manker, Damien McCree, Fatima L. Quijada, Deshaune Z. White, John Marshall School No. 20; Jonathan Velez, John D. Zapata, Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31; Marawan Aboelwafa, Arianna Abulevsko, Emily Alarcon, Ahmad Brown, Natalya Caceres, Camila Calvino, Bryan Coronel, Erick Cortes, Celine DaSilva, Geraldine Diaz, Justin Dolalas, Ahmed Ghani, Daniil Grodskiy-Romanovich, Sarah Guerrero, Diego Martinez, Nicholas Mena, Adrianna Nazco, Joseph Aldam, Jeffery Opoku-Mensah, Alessandro Padilla, Shanne Quinones, Jheremy Quintero, Natalia Ramirez, Anthony Rincon, Jaylynn Riotte, Dennis Salmanowitz, Faraz Shairy, Ezra Smith, Carolin Villafana, Jakov Zamora, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Norman Hal, Montayah Harris, Justin Munoz, Kevin Zelada, Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23; Katherine

Caceda, Christopher S. Doering, Kevin Echeverri, Leslie Estevez, Brandon Fernandez, Camilo Minier, Axel Rodriguez, Chabely Silva, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, Florencia Favale, Jose Guanipatin, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; Najmir Armstead, Estefania Castillo, David Szaro, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; Shamyah Bowers, Denny Goncalves, Leahnie Grau, Deane Lopez, Kathleen Mendez, Rolando Quintana, Aimee Ramirez, Sara Rivas, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Jay Abreu, Lazaro Barrios, Shayne Burns, Margina Canales Diaz, Rossy Cruz, Saeed Lackraj, Eduarda Martins, Brian Naranjo, Marco Nazario, Agustin Ramirez, Kevin Ramos, Nour Sayed, Yonah Sosa, Alexa Yaravide, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Trujillo, Mr. González, and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Nazco recognized Shayne Burns, third grade student at Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30, who achieved a perfect score on both the NJASK Mathematics and the NJASK Language Arts. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated Shayne Burns and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Nazco recognized the students who received a perfect score on their State Assessments – Grade 4 Mathematics including Akira Brown, Winfield Scott School No. 2; Luz Alfaro, Bruno Moscoso-Rodriguez, Ajay Verma, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; Ryon Harris, Matthew Herrera, Joel Martinez, Krizzia Martinez, Marcos Molina, Adrian Morales, Luis Pupo, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Angela Andrianopoulos, John Bonilla, Cindi Cruz, Jennifer Gonzalez, Edika Quevedo, Maria Rosales, Jenia Vega, Elmora School No. 12; Katyana Perez, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Christian Castro, Albert Pimentel, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Nelson Capela, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; Victoria Antunes, Katherine Barahona, Jocelyn Behar, Dylan Carvalho, Ovidio Chavez, Mariana Costa, Thomas Dolalas, Giselle Garcia, Jeffrey Gonzalez, Alejandra Hincapie, Abigail Iheke, Adam Kondraciuk, Darika Lara-Rodriguez, Kiara Marques, Chris Nunes, Nataly Osma, Raul Palomo, Nikitha Pappachen, George Quijana, Alyne Restrepo, Joseph Rogers, Kevin Szymborski, Rebecca Vergera, Berenice Vilchis, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Josh Afre, Jeremy Cruz, Anissa Fernandez, Jaquil Lovett, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Camila Alvez, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; Junior Brice, Omar Dardon, Jr., Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Perreira recognized the students who received a perfect score on their State Assessments – Grade 5 Mathematics including Daniel Turcios, George Washington School No. 1; Amanda Diaz, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Dominik Klimczak, James Russell, Donasia Wilson, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Beven Mathew, Nataly Silva, Elmora School No. 12; Juan Luis Rosa, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Jean C. Hernandez, Beatriz Malaspina, Gaston Posse, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Flor Varraza, Christian Guevara, John Marshall School No. 20; Desiree Armas, Akosua Atweaban, Laura Bocanegra, Delfina Chirigliano, Pablo Cueva, Ariel Cunha, Omar Elsaai, Mauro Fernandez, Alejandro Garcia, Harmony Garcia, Nia Grandison, Mohammad Hamed, Tiffany Landazabal, Jaisson Lazo, Elora Lugtu, Kassie Mahabir, Jr., Natalia Mora, Ricardo Munoz, Desiree Santa Maria, Manuela Soto, Jeyna Tutundzic, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Tiffany Vazquez, Brandon Wreckler, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Leonardo Curbelo, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Brandon Albornoz, Karla Andeliz, Paola Arenas, Joyce Cotton, Marissa Martinez, Ever Nolasco, Fariha Pia, Khamran Rodriguez, Sam Verma, Valeria Zuloaga, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized the students who received a perfect score on their State Assessments – Grade 6 Mathematics including David Huarcaya, Winfield Scott School No. 2; Windia Cassy, Andrienne Chandra, Hak Ja DeSousa, Astrid Hernandez, Josue Palacios, Chelsea Salazar, Ashley Villarreal, Leonardo Zuniga, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Jonnathan

Baquero, Priscilla Chinchilla, Chelsea Costa, Felix Galarza III, Aaliyah Isaac, Jordan Jacobs, Monique Kalu, Paula Medina, Miguel Salcedo, Steven Santos, Zeyad Taha, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Oscar Barrios, Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23; Destiny Dozier, Kevin Ferreira, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Xin Yao Lin, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; Kevin Gallardo, Rey Maisonet, Jose Carlos Trivino, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Brianna Rodriguez, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Pastor Burgos recognized the students who received a perfect score on their State Assessments – Grade 7 Mathematics including Luis DelaCruz, Giovanni Pizarro, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Wendy Chen, Eric Nieves, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Alexandre Almeida, Tiziana Cappuccia, Melanie Flores, Hector Grande, Omar Mahfouz, Joseph Palaguachi, Stephanie Trujillo, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Juan Regalon, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Rashel Narciso, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; Samantha Sadoski, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Alma Barraza, John Marshall School No. 20; Megan Berglund, Juan Chala, Jose Chicas, Marianna Costanza, Anthony Cruz, Jorge Cruz, Camila Dutra, Christiana Limage, Britanie Montero, Laura Pena, Marcella Plazas, Roger Robles, Maria Saenz, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Michael Merino, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Angel Aime, Breysson Ospina, Kevin Pemberthy, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Pastor Burgos and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Donoso recognized the students who received a perfect score on their State Assessments – Grade 8 Mathematics including Stephanie Ardon, Ester Calderon, Thaynan Costa, Florencia Curbelo, Mayra Quintero, Julio Cesar Zelaya, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Sofia Reyes, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Daniel Hualpar, Theodore Roosevelt School No. 17; Vincent Gualpa, John Marshall School No. 20; Susan Acero, Damaris Ball, Glennly Beltre, Ileana Blanco, Bayron Jaramillo, Tania Lopes, Christopher Markowitz, Christian Mendoza, Zain Nadeem, Ahmed Nagy, Ryota Naito, Natalia Rincon, Katina St. Jean, Cameo Steed, Isaih Vega, Gary Westberry, Stephanie Wong, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Mildred Asamoah, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. Mr. Donoso and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Donoso recognized Bayron T. Jaramillo, eighth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, who achieved a perfect score on both the NJASK Mathematics and the NJASK Science. Mr. Donoso and Board members congratulated Bayron T. Jaramillo and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Donoso recognized the students who received a perfect score on their State Assessments – Grade 8 Science including Winfry Lopez, Madison-Monroe School No. 16, Bayron T. Jaramillo, Faizur Piuli, Riya Ramirez, Richard Ramirez, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31. Mr. Donoso and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Munn recognized the teachers who taught the students who achieved a perfect score on their State Assessments in 2009-2010 including third grade mathematics teachers Sonya Ameli, Rosaura Bagolie, Barbara Bampoe-Parry, Benedetta Caterinicchio, Michele DeMaio, Kathleen Diffley, Eileen Doherty, Mary Doran, Cheryl Episcopo, Suzanne Fenelli, Melissa Florczak, Starlett Harris, Yao-Hsuan Huang, Joanne Imperiale, Marguerite Jensen, Truda Johnson, Mary Johnston, Maria Labrador, Rhonda Lacken, Samira Laskey, Elizabeth Lee-Reilly, Chirstine Lucia, Vera Matos-Pereira, Linda Mayer, Marjorie Medina, Sarah Minervino, Amber Palombo, Kathleen Pepe, Manilia Point Du Jour, Lisa Rafoa, Josephine Rodriguez, Gina Guarino-Rysinski, Lisa Stankiewica, Sara Todaro; fourth grade mathematics teachers Erin Devaney, Elizabeth Duda, Jacqueline Encarnacion, Nicole Gebhart, Elise Gorner, Marcy Hackett, Marsha Henkel, Scott Kauffman, Shari Kreitzman, Barbara May, Joan Shapiro, Tanya Tenturier,

Susana Villarino, Jennifer Whitford; fifth grade mathematics teachers Susan Bell, Ellen Cohn Ligia Cravo, Carolyn Kirkwood, Ralph Marciano, Kimberly Lynn Pantano, Dawn Sandholm, Rosaria Smeraglia, Carson Steltz, Amy Uetz, Ruth Young; sixth grade mathematics teachers Lauren Bowers, Mary Elizabeth Doherty, Traci Freeman, Sandra Haase, Maureen Kacsma-Rios, Suzanne Kim, Doris Moskowitz, Robin Murphy, Alak Parmar, Palak Shah; seventh grade mathematics teachers James Caulfield, Jr., Claude Dallemand, Randi Farber, Carmen Formoso, Kristi Godfrey, Steven Litchfield, Patricia Mahon, Peter Pantano, Isaac Rimler; eighth grade mathematics teachers James Caulfield, Jr., Shivy George, Kristi Godfrey, Solaris Ortiz, Irene Szakielo, Virginia Tantom; eighth grade science teachers Maria Borkowsky, Gayle Gesualdi. Mrs. Munn and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz thanked everyone for coming to the perfect score presentation and stated that the meeting will continue with the evening's presentation of achieving excellence in our schools. Mr. Muñoz quoted Karen Ravn, "Only as high as I reach can I grow, only as far as I seek can I go, only as deep as I look can I see, only as much as I dream can I be." Mr. Muñoz stated that our vision is to be one of the best school systems in the State of New Jersey and asked what does that mean academically. Mr. Muñoz stated that academically that means Reaching 90% or better on the state assessments by June 30, 2011. Mr. Muñoz stated that tonight the assessments, test scores, from the 2009-2010 school year will be presented by Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment. Mr. Muñoz stated that there will be a review of the state assessments K-12 as well as early childhood, and presentation of the top ten schools, the top ten preschools and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz introduced Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, to present the 2009-2010 Assessment of Teaching and Learning.

Pastor Burgos excused himself from the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Mrs. Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, stated that we are proud of the children honored for the tremendous success of earning a perfect score on the NJASK, that the teachers honored tonight demonstrated what it means to have the power to make a difference and the students showed us that they have the power to achieve excellence.

Mrs. Gil explained the progress that has been made since 2005 on our Journey to 90% and stated that this presentation will outline the level at which our students and teachers are performing. Mrs. Gil stated that in Early Childhood Education the students are not assessed but their learning environments are with three separate assessments, that the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-R) was 4.98 for 2005 on a scale of 1-7 and in 2010 the overall average score increased by 13.9% to 5.67. Mrs. Gil explained that the Supports for Early Literacy Assessment (SELA) is another environmental rating scale which focuses on early literacy and that in 2005 the overall score earned was 3.46 on a scale of 1-5 and in 2010 the score increased by 22.8% to 4.25. Mrs. Gil stated that the Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory rates the preschool classroom environment with a focus on mathematics and in 2005 the overall average score was 2.77 on a scale of 1-5 and the score increased in 2010 by 23.8% to 3.43.

Mrs. Gil explained that the data moves away from classroom environment toward student achievement, that in grades kindergarten through second grade the students take the TerraNova test in March each year, that the Terra Nova is a Norm Referenced test administered to students in grades K-2 and that Norm Referenced tests provide data as a comparison to all of the other students across the United States who took the same assessment in the same grade level. Mrs. Gil explained that scores are reported as percentiles, that the 41st percentile is the score used to identify students performing on grade level and that this is the score that is used for reporting. Mrs. Gil stated that the students in grades K-2 are assessed in reading, language arts and mathematics, that in kindergarten the growth in reading since 2005 has been nearly 30% and that in mathematics 90% of our students are on grade level.

Mrs. Gil stated that in first grade, 82.8% of our students are on grade level in reading, 84.4% are on grade level in language arts and 87.3% are on grade level in mathematics, and that we have seen an average increase of 20% across the subjects in first grade.

Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 2 we have seen 32.3% growth over 5 years in reading and 87.5% of our students are on grade level in language arts.

Mrs. Gil explained that in grades 3 through 8 the State of New Jersey requires that we administer the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) in May, that this assessment measure students knowledge of the state standards at each grade level in language arts and mathematics and in grades 4 and 8 the assessment also tests knowledge of science. Mrs. Gil explained that the NJASK results are reported on a scale of 100 to 300, that students scoring 200 or better are deemed proficient or have passed the test, students scoring 250 or better have passed the test at an advanced level and that tonight we have already celebrated the students who earned perfect scores of 300. Mrs. Gil stated that the data that follows is representative of the proficient and advanced proficient scores combined for each grade level and each subject. Mrs. Gil explained that in 2009 the State changed the criteria for earning a proficient score in grades 3 and 4 for language arts and mathematics and therefore we are only sharing the two year data, that in the year since the criteria were adjusted we have seen a 4.4% growth in grade 3 mathematics, and a 5.3% increase in grade 4 mathematics. Mrs. Gil explained that the state changed the scoring criteria in 2008 for language arts and math in grades 5-8, that over the two years since the changes were made we have had a 16% growth in grade 5 language arts, 50% growth in grade 6 language arts and 15.2% growth in grade 6 mathematics, almost 26% growth in grade 7 language arts and 16.5% growth in grade 7 mathematics, and almost 40% growth in grade 8 mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that the New Jersey Department of Education has not made any changes to the scoring criteria in science since we began tracking our progress in 2005 and that when the playing field remains level it is no wonder how well our students score, that there was 49.3% increase in grade 4 science and 39.2% increase in grade 8 science. Mrs. Gil stated that New Jersey Department of Education does not have an assessment required for grades 9 and 10, that in 2008 we began to administer the New Jersey Proficiency Assessment of State Standards (NJPASS) to the students in grades 9 and 10 and that the assessment is aligned to the state standards and provides valuable information about the students' attainment of the state's standards in preparation for the state mandated grade 11 assessment. Mrs. Gil stated that in ninth grade 71.4% of our students have met the state standards in language arts and we have seen growth of 28.5% in mathematics and that in tenth grade we have seen nearly 23% growth in language arts since 2008 and 9% growth in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that the State of New Jersey has a state mandated test for students in grade 11, the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA), that is not only a measure of attainment of the state standards in language arts and mathematics but passing the HSPA is also a graduation requirement for a high school diploma. Mrs. Gil explained that because the HSPA is a graduation requirement the students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency, that in March of each school year the 11th grade students take the HSPA for the first time, that the students who do not earn proficient scores are reassessed in October of the following school year in the subject or subjects they did not pass, that if a student still has not passed one or both sections by the following March they can retake the part or parts not yet passed when the next cohort of 11th grade students are taking the HSPA. Mrs. Gil explained the banking of proficient scores for the high school, that in the past Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was calculated by using the 11th grade data year after year, that in 2008 the NJDOE decided to account for progress made including three multiple administrations, or three cycles of the HSPA as previously mentioned. Mrs. Gil explained a graph showing the students who were in 11th grade for the March 2009 HSPA test who also had the opportunity to take the HSPA again in October of 2009 and March 2010. Mrs. Gil stated that at the start of the cycle 63.5% of the students were proficient in language arts and by the third cycle 76.2 were proficient. Mrs. Gil stated that when tracking back to the students who were in 11th grade in 2005, 15% more of our students are earning proficient scores by the third administration in language arts and 8.5% in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that this is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the teachers and students. Mrs. Gil stated that the cohort of students who were in 11th grade

during the March 2010 HSPA administration had the opportunity to retake the HSPA last month and we have not received their interim scores.

Mr. Muñoz quoted Orison Swett Marden, “Our destiny changes with our thought; we shall become what we wish to become, do what we wish to do, when our habitual thought corresponds with our desire.” Mr. Muñoz stated that in 2005 we set our destination to be one of the best school systems in the State of New Jersey, that year after year the performance of our students are getting better, our schools are getting better, we have more students scoring perfect scores and that is because we had the thought and then we took action to make it happen. Mr. Muñoz stated that tonight will be the first night that we honor both the top ten performing K-12 schools as well as the top ten preschools.

Mr. Muñoz stated that last Spring, the Board passed the Accountability Policy that requires us to rank our schools and tonight we will share the performance of our schools. Mr. Muñoz congratulated the top ten performing schools including a tie for 9th place, Elmora School No. 12, Principal Caroline Cespedes, and John Marshall School No. 20, Principal Dr. Thelma Hurd; 8th place, Christopher Columbus School No. 15, Principal Rafael Cortes; 7th place, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, Principal George Mikros; 6th place, Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31, Principal Michael Webb; 5th place, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, Principal Linda Seniszyn; 4th place, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, Principal Joseph Engessor; 3rd place, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, Principal Jennifer Ceden; 2nd place, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, Principal Michael Webb; and 1st place, Elizabeth High School, Principal Michael Cummings. Mr. Muñoz and the Board members congratulated the principals and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Muñoz congratulated the top ten performing preschools including 10th place, Egenolf, Executive Director Lorraine Cook; a tie for 8th place, Proceed I, Director Maribel Hernandez, and Theodore Roosevelt School No. 17, Principal Manual Gonzalez; 7th place, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19, Principal Caroline Cespedes; 6th place, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30, Principal Arlene Campbell; a tie for 4th place, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, Principal Linda Seniszyn, and Christopher Columbus School No. 15, Principal Rafael Cortes, Jr.; 3rd place, Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50, Principal Kathy Di Profio; 2nd place, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early Childhood Center School No. 52, Principal Litove Tighe; and 1st place, Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51, Principal Rafael Cortes, Jr. Mr. Muñoz and the Board members congratulated the principals and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Muñoz stated that the last news concerning the 2009-2010 school year assessments, breaking news, is that the Elizabeth Public Schools with the help of its teachers and all staff members, by the direction of the Elizabeth Board of Education, the district made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Mr. Muñoz stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools achieved AYP for the second time in three years during the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Muñoz quoted an unknown author, “Excellence can be obtained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible.” Mr. Muñoz stated that every day here in the Elizabeth Public Schools we do those very things, even though individuals inside and outside the organization put obstacles in our way, we continue to risk and fight for our children and to achieve excellence to become one of the best school systems in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Muñoz thanked everyone for their hard work last year and encouraged everyone to continue the pace at which we continue to achieve excellence here and to continue the progress.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. stated that the Elizabeth Board of Education is currently in the process of fulfilling compliance requirements under the New Jersey state monitoring system, the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC). Mr. Kennedy stated that under QSAC, the district will be assessed in the following five key areas, instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations management, and governance. Mr. Kennedy stated that as required a district committee has completed a District Performance Review (DPR) for each of these five areas and at a meeting on October 21, 2010 the Board authorized submission of the completed QSAC DPRs to the New Jersey Department of

Education. Mr. Kennedy stated that at that same meeting the Board also set November 15, 2010 as the date of a public meeting to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the completed QSAC DPRs. Mr. Kennedy stated that accordingly, notice of this meeting was advertised in the Star Ledger on Monday, November 8, 2010 giving notice that the proposed responses to the QSAC DPRs and Statement of Assurance are posted on the District internet site and are on file and open to the examination of the public in the Office of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, 500 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey on weekdays prior to the date of hearing between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mr. Kennedy stated that notice was also given that the public shall have the opportunity to submit written comments prior to the meeting to the aforementioned address.

Mr. Kennedy asked for citizens who wished to comment on the completed QSAC DPRs to come forward. No dialogue transpired and no comments were made. Since no one wished to comment on the completed QSAC DPRs, Mr. Kennedy closed this session.

Mr. Trujillo 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 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.”

Since there were no citizens to address the Board, Mr. Trujillo declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

On a motion by Mrs. Munn, seconded by Mr. González, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Mrs. Munn, Messrs. Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo – 7

Negative: None

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