

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

November 18, 2019  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called at 6:30 p.m. on November 18, 2019 at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, 436 First Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following statement at 6:38 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular 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 November 13, 2019. 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 and our television viewers to this 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 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 public speaking 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: Mrs. Barbosa (arr. 7:00 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus (arr. 8:37 p.m.), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs (arr. 8:50 p.m.), Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8  
Absent: Mr. Neron – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenio, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Esq., and members of the public were in attendance.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jaden Zarate, fourth grade student at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by a string quartet featuring eighth grade students Daphne Manuel, Andy Coca, Pablo Criollo, and Miguel Margaca from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.

The Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 No Bully Pledge was led by Isabella Rossi, fifth grade student at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by David Qsegueda, eighth grade student at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.

Mrs. Pestana introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs.

Mrs. Pestana introduced students in the Fourth Grade Step Team from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 who performed a routine that highlighted the work they did during the Week of Respect. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Pestana introduced students in the Reilly Rising Stars of Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 who sang *Let There Be Peace* by Andy Beck. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Pestana introduced students in the Third Grade Chorus from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 who sang *The World is a Rainbow* by Greg & Steve. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Pestana introduced children from the Puerto Rican Alliance Kids who performed a *Batalla* dance. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Pestana stated that they are honoring Terence C. Reilly tonight. Mrs. Pestana stated that the Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 learning community continues to represent the Elizabeth Public Schools at the highest standard and they have been recognized many times over the past several years at the state and national level. Mrs. Pestana stated that in the span of a few weeks earlier this school year, they were among 362 schools selected as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education based on their overall academic excellence. Mrs. Pestana stated that they were also selected as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022 in recognition of the school's exemplary learning environment for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence. Mrs. Pestana stated that they have been recognized for their character education having been selected as a New Jersey and National School of Character in 2018. Mrs. Pestana recognized members of the School No. 7 community for their amazing accomplishments and for their tireless dedication to upholding our standard of excellence. Mrs. Pestana introduced Principal Theodore Panagopoulos.

Principal Theodore Panagopoulos stated that he is honored that the Board chose to have their meeting at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7. Mr. Panagopoulos invited the staff, parents, and students to join him on stage to celebrate being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Mrs. Pestana stated that team members Maria Molina and Robyn Azriel have been recognized by the United States Office of the Secretary of Defense for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Mrs. Pestana stated that the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a volunteer led and volunteer centric Department of Defense program within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Mrs. Pestana introduced Alex Hernandez, Northern New Jersey Area Chairman; Art Maggs, Army Reserve Ambassador; and Frank Krov, Chief Petty Officer who presented plaques to Maria Molina and Robyn Azriel for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized the Elizabeth Rotary Club whose members have admirably served the residents of this City for the past century especially the students who attend the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the Elizabeth Rotary Club has provided dictionaries to third grade students with the goal of assisting them in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members thanked the Rotary

Club and stated that since no one was present the certificate of commemoration would be presented at a later date.

Mrs. Hernandez recognized Damon Marks founder of the Traveling Guitar Foundation for his outstanding generosity and support of the Elizabeth Public Schools music programs. Mrs. Hernandez stated that Damon Marks has been inspiring students through music education and making generous donations of dozens of brand new electric and bass guitars, amplifiers, percussion instruments, and instrument cables to various music programs at the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hernandez stated that in 2010 he created the Traveling Guitar Foundation, which is a non-profit organization that works to ensure that school children have access to high-quality musical instruments and instruction during a time when school systems are facing budgetary restraints. Mrs. Hernandez stated that most recently in 2019 his foundation donated guitars and equipment to Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23. Mrs. Hernandez and Board members congratulated Damon Marks and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized members of the Elizabeth community who were recognized for their extraordinary service by the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Awards including Julian Acebo, Jose Rodriguez, and Iliana Chevres. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that honorees of the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award achieve measurable community impact and represent outstanding acts of public service without the expectation of recognition or compensation. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that they demonstrate unique vision, dedication, and tenacity of heroic proportion and serve as inspiration for others. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer recognized Board member Rosa Moreno-Ortega for being awarded the New Board Member Boardsmanship Certification from the New Jersey School Boards Association. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Certified New Board Member is the first level of the Board Member Academy Certification Program and the eligibility is limited to the first two years of board service. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Boardsmanship Certification includes earning at least ten Board Member Academy credits, attending an in-person new Board Member Orientation, at least one state-wide or regional professional development program, at least two county association meetings, and at least one annual NJSBA Workshop Conference. Mrs. Hugelmeyer congratulated Mrs. Moreno-Ortega on her achievement.

Mrs. Pestana introduced a video presentation of the President's Tour.

Mrs. Pestana presented the President's Focus and stated that she has designated office hours from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. every Monday night during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Pestana stated that last week we observed Veteran's Day and we are reminded of the personal sacrifices made by our past and present servicemen and service women to help protect our country and our freedoms. Mrs. Pestana thanked, on behalf of the Board, all for their courageous and selfless service to our country. Mrs. Pestana stated that Thanksgiving is one week away and thanked Elizabeth First Ward Councilman Carlos Torres, the Elizabeth Police Department, and PBA for their turkey donations that helped ensure members of our community to have a nice warm meal this Thanksgiving. Mrs. Pestana expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Elizabeth community for providing her this wonderful opportunity to serve, to her colleagues on the Board for their friendship and dedication to the continued improvement of our schools, and to our Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer and all team members of the Elizabeth Public Schools for their tireless daily commitment to ensuring our students are college prepared, career ready, and life successful. Mrs. Pestana wished all the members of the Elizabeth Public Schools community and greater Elizabeth community a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following public participation statement.

"At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by

a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Pestana called upon the first public participant, Alex Chappotin, to address the Board.

Alex Chappotin, 821 Cleveland Avenue, stated that the girls softball team plays on the School No. 28 turf field which is in need of repair.

Mrs. Pestana thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Maggie Margadonna, to address the Board.

Maggie Margadonna, teacher and girls softball coach, spoke about the girls softball team and the need for repair of the field.

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

#### Award of Contract – Field Turf USA

Mr. Kennedy read the proposed award of contract for the replacement of the artificial turf at School No. 28.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to approve the award of contract.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho stated that a brand new field will be installed.

Board President Stephanie Pestana requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, interviews, special services support, authorization to attend RISES 2019 Fall Conference; legal matters, specifically, resolution agreement implementation, and appointment of special counsel. The board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to go into private session at 7:55 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 6

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 10:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

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. Moreno-Ortega thanked the Superintendent for having the information on the screen.

The first reading of the following new policies was done:

5142.3	Policy	Physical Restraint
5142.4	Policy	Physical Restraint – Non Disabled Students

Mrs. Pestana added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Appointment of Special Counsel

Superintendent's Report – Considerations - add Attendance at RISES 2019 Fall Conference

Mrs. Pestana read the following resolution:

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Principal – Doris Farrell

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – Nancy Carrero-Munoz

Mrs. Pestana read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – Donald Steup

Mrs. Pestana read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – Juan Metrio Sanchez

Mrs. Pestana read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Supervisor of Mathematics 6-12 – Aailah McClinton

Mrs. Pestana read the resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Supervisor of Science PreK-12 – Solomon Victor

Mrs. Pestana read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the Meetings of October 10 and 17, 2019

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of September 2019

Personnel Report

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

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – Payment for Medical-Health Insurance Waiver

Resolution – Agreement for Public Schools CST Services – Union County Educational Services

Commission for 2019-2020 School Year

Resolution – Authorization to Submit Documents for NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC)

Resolution – Submission of Early Childhood Budget for 2020-2021 School Year

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Appointing Peters Chemical Company and Approving Form of Contract for Provision of Ice Melt Pellets

Resolution – Appointing BSN Sports, LLC; All American Sports Corporation t/a Riddell All American; and Pyramid Paper Company, Inc. t/a Pyramid School Products to Provide Athletic Equipment and Supplies for Winter Sports

Resolution – Authorizing Settlement and Release Agreement – K.E.

Resolution – Authorizing Settlement and Release Agreement – T.T.

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam Employee #111037

Resolution – Settlement Agreement Docket No. UNN-L-2144-16 – J.I.

Resolution – OCR Agreement Implementation

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing Special Counsel - Critchley, Kinum & Denoia

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the above be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa (abstain – Award of Contracts Report – Cintas Corp., Valenca Restaurant, St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center, Fairleigh Dickinson University, The Westwood), Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – G.D.; Supplemental Personnel Report – G.D., M.G., N.A.; Authorizations Report –Groundwork Elizabeth), Chevres (abstain- Supplemental Personnel Report – J.R., C.A.), Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega congratulated School No. 7 for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the special needs events include ESEPAC, basketball at School No. 30, Autumn Giving, Winter Wonderland Train Ride, and visiting with Santa in December. Mrs. Barbosa wished good luck to the newly promoted team members.

Mrs. Pestana wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

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