

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

December 12, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called at 6:30 p.m. on December 12, 2019 at Winfield Scott School No. 2, 125 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following statement at 6:40 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 December 6, 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: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (arr. 8:34 p.m.), Mr. Neron (arr. 6:46 p.m.), Pestana – 8

Absent: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Esq., Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and members of the public were in attendance.

Mrs. Pestana called for a moment of silence for Nelson Miranda Gomez who was a student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and former Elizabeth Board of Education Member, Vice President and two-time President Carole Cascio who served two terms on the Board from 2000 to 2006.

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 Michaela Cardoso, third grade student at Winfield Scott School No. 2.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by eighth grade students Ronique Lynch, Ronicha Morvan, and Emily Santos from Winfield Scott School No. 2.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Mikayla Carter, seventh grade student at Winfield Scott School No. 2.

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

Mrs. Pestana introduced students in the Third Grade Choir at Winfield Scott School No. 2 who performed a Christmas Medley. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Pestana introduced students in the Performing Arts Drama Club from Winfield Scott School No. 2 who performed *It's a Hard Knock Life*, music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Martin Charnin. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Pestana introduced Winfield Scott School No. 2 Principal Samuel Etienne and Vice Principal Shante Gilmore-Rorie to present the RIDES partnership.

Winfield Scott School No. 2 Principal Samuel Etienne stated that Vice Principal Shante Gilmore-Rorie and he participated in the Reimagining Integration Diverse and Equitable Schools (RIDES) Program at Harvard University. Mr. Etienne stated that they had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Adrienne Bailey, former coach from The Panasonic Foundation and now a coach to the Board, about what are some of the things they can do to help move Winfield Scott School No. 2 to be one of the best schools in not only the district but in the state and country. Mr. Etienne stated that one of the keys is to partner with outside colleges. Mr. Etienne stated that they were able to partner with Harvard University for the Reimagining Integration Diverse and Equitable Schools (RIDES) program.

Mr. Etienne presented PowerPoint slides of the RIDES program. Mr. Etienne stated that the Reimagining Integration Diverse and Equitable Schools (RIDES) has four components including academics, belongingness, commitment to dismantling racism and oppression, and diversity. Mr. Etienne stated that the academics component is that all students have strong academic preparation, capitalizing on and connecting to students of all backgrounds with high levels of knowledge and skills. Mr. Etienne stated that belongingness is that all students have a strong sense and appreciation of their own culture and heritage as well as of those of their diverse classmates. Mr. Etienne stated that the commitment to dismantling racism and oppression is that students understand the role that institutional racism and other forms of oppression play in our society and have the skills, vision, and courage to dismantle them. Mr. Etienne stated that the diverse component is that all students appreciate and value different perspectives, thoughts, and people and have friendships and collaboration working relationships with students and adults from a variety of racial and economic backgrounds. Mr. Etienne explained a PowerPoint slide showing the RIDES Equity Improvement Cycle and stated that there are six areas of the initial and continued development of a personal and team culture. Mr. Etienne stated that the six areas include to talk honestly about inclusion and create a vision of equity in a specific area, collect data to see how current reality compares to the vision, diagnose underlying causes of any gaps between vision and reality, plan one or more initiatives that systemically address gaps, act/implement specific initiatives with support and accountability, and reflect/assess impacts and processes of work and plan next improvement cycle. Mr. Etienne explained a PowerPoint slide showing what is required of Winfield Scott School No. 2 in the Harvard University partnership including a three-day on-campus institute where participants will explore, reflect, and engage with RIDES faculty and fellow cohort members as they get an overview of and begin work on the Equity Improvement Cycle; monthly virtual meetings and webinars where cohort members will participate in meetings to learn about new content specific to each RIDES Equity Improvement Cycle; monthly coaching check-in calls where team leads will connect with RIDES faculty and coaches and discuss programs at their individual sites; RIDES individual assets including articles, videos, case studies, and white papers that promote learning and exploration; individual site work which takes place between meetings and seminars; documentation and communication of team progress in conjunction with work on Equity Improvement Cycle; and closing day program for cohort members to have an opportunity to

return to campus or participate virtually to reflect on and/or share their learning from their Equity Improvement Cycle. Mr. Etienne explained a PowerPoint slide showing the RIDES Progress Assessment for each component, the performance level, evidence, and plans to improve for now, this year, and next year.

Vice Principal Shante Gilmore-Rorie explained a PowerPoint slide showing the Harvard University RIDES Program Goals include generating better academic outcomes and fostering a sense of belonging for all students, committing to combat and dismantle racism and oppression, helping students, families, and staff more fully appreciate diversity and its impact within the school setting, foster a school culture that values transformative changes and the impact these changes bring to the school setting, and develop a community of practice where teams can learn from cohort members as well as RIDES faculty and coaches. Ms. Gilmore-Rorie introduced a video presentation of the work to date for the RIDES program.

Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the informative presentation.

Mrs. Barbosa recognized Ethan Almendarez, seventh grade student at Winfield Scott School No. 2, who demonstrates great character and for being named a Superintendent's Scholar and Principal's Scholar. Mrs. Barbosa and Board members congratulated Ethan Almendarez and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Jacobs recognized Rosemarie Tanga, head secretary at Winfield Scott School No. 2 for going above and beyond in helping parents, guardians, and visitors who enter the building and helping Winfield Scott School No. 2 to succeed both academically and operationally. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated Rosemarie Tanga and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Hernandez recognized PTO members from Winfield Scott School No. 2 for their commitment to education and for serving as important partners to their school community including Michelle Corniel, America Espinoza, and Patricia Silva. Mrs. Hernandez and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced a video presentation featuring the year of review to honor Board President Stephanie Pestana.

Mrs. Pestana thanked everyone and stated that this is her final President's Focus. Mrs. Pestana stated that she has designated office hours from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Monday night during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to meet with me and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Pestana thanked her colleagues for providing her with the special opportunity of serving as president of this Board and stated that it has been a very rewarding year both serving on the Board and personally. Mrs. Pestana stated that she looks forward to serving alongside them and continuing to do great things for the Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth community in 2020. Mrs. Pestana thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, members of central administration, and team members at all of our district schools and administrative offices for their outstanding support throughout the year. Mrs. Pestana stated that it was a joy and honor to have had the opportunity to meet so many while visiting schools and seeing the awesome work they are doing. Mrs. Pestana thanked the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools who are her greatest inspiration and stated that they have helped create so many special memories during these past twelve months that she will cherish for years to come. Mrs. Pestana stated that the students are truly one of a kind and have so many great achievements and stories that have yet to be written and she looks forward to seeing all of them continue to grow and realize their full potential. Mrs. Pestana wished everyone, on behalf of the Board of Education, a safe, healthy and joyous holiday season as well as a Happy New Year with countless blessings.

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, Maria Medeiros DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria Medeiros DaRassi, 420 Fay Avenue, spoke about a problem with a student.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes speak with the parent.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, John Griffin, to address the Board.

John Griffin, EEA President, spoke about matters in school and the safety of the students and staff.

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

Nick Nicoletta, EEA 2nd Vice President, spoke about the need for a written contract and communication problems with administration.

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

Kapri Germain, 1008 Flora Street, spoke about problems with her children at school.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson meet with the parent.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, thanked the EEA president for coming to address concerns and spoke about the lack of communication with parents and teachers. Mrs. Moreira spoke about an OPRA request for a lease and asked about \$35,000. payment to an architecture firm.

Mr. Williams stated that the architectural work is done prior to signing the lease which is being presented tonight.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little, 225 S. Seventh Street, thanked the EEA president and vice president for speaking out. Mr. Little stated that he wants a public apology for a personal attack and spoke about freedom of speech.

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

Leonardo Caramazano, EEA Vice President, spoke about the lack of a written contract.

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

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, fit for duty exams and substitute services; legal matters, specifically, contracts for purchase of warehouse equipment and sale of vehicles and equipment, and partnership with The College of New Jersey; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, I.P. and M.V. The board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to go into private session at 8:06 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to reconvene in public session at 10:12 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. 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. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period starting January 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2019. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in July 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, Chapter 122 and in accordance with this law, all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a "Week of Respect." During the Week of Respect, school districts are expected to organize activities, including but not limited to, age-appropriate instruction and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution was put before the Board in September declaring the week of October 1-5, 2018, Week of Respect and each of our schools planned appropriate activities for this week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, two times each year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the reporting period.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, there were 316 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff and of those cases investigated, 120 were confirmed cases of HIB and were affirmed by board members through the August 2019 Board meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the following anti-bullying specialists, anti-bullying specialist alternates and anti-bullying coordinator conducted these investigations including Nafeesa Freeman, Ada Flores, Kristin Kelly, Dinorah Mejia, Melanie Padilla, Andreia Giuca, Guadalupe Ferreiro, Jessica Sepulveda, Julissa Urena, Christine Rappa, Chanise Hurst, Christine Flaherty, Nicole Webb, Lisa Rappa, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Jasmine Lee, Maria Brito, Lourdes Labbate, Jennifer Hernandez, Jessica Sofranko, Tanya Santucci, Fabi Ramos, Shayra Bustamante, Melvin Luciano, Maria Cabrera, Antonio Sapio, Jill Aller, Sara Laface, Sarah Brown, Meghan Lewandowski, Lauren Delgado, Kenyetta Jackson, Kathy Amato, Jason Colcol, Melissa Zappia, Colleen Reynolds, Lourdes Soto, Theresa Zucosky, Aleina Cuza-Murray, Lauren Cortes, Michele Zuber, Wilma Helm, Jessica Trujillo, Evalyn Leonard, Kerry O'Connor, Maria Vindas, Cindy Lichtenstein, MaryPat Lavecchia, Donna Williams, Steven Zografos, Wendy Maravi, Jessica Solorzano, Rosaria Scaff, Heidy Guillaume, Laura Bellevue, Joseph Sanchez, Norma Cardona, Veronica Vega, Patricia Makras, Lisa Baginski-Matlosz, Ashley Rully, Linda Lewis, Ishmael Medley, Safiyyah Howell, and Peter Vosseler.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 7 incidents founded based on race/ethnic origin, 4 incidents based on color, 1 incident based on religion, 1 incident based on ancestry, 22 incidents based on gender, 17 incidents based on sexual orientation, 2 incidents based on gender identity or expression, 13 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 89 incidents based on other targeted bases. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that of the founded incidents, 89 incidents were verbal, 50 incidents were physical, and 44 incidents involved an electronic communication. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 119 out-of-school suspensions, 75 in-school detentions, and 34 other disciplinary actions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additional services such as in-school counseling, skill development, referral for outside treatment resources, professional development, parent conferences and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019, the district provided appropriate HIB training to school counselors, social workers, new staff, and support staff in the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the district also provided the two-hour State required HIB training for each five-year developmental period to certified staff throughout the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additionally, the district provided extensive and specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all anti-bullying specialists and their alternates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that non-certificated staff also received training. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new school level administrators and new HIB staff received training in the HIBster reporting program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked if there is anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report. Since no dialogue transpired and no comments were made regarding the Chief School Administrator's presentation on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, Mrs. Hugelmeyer closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Pestana requested a motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of adding to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to suspend the rules for the purpose of adding to the agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam - ID No. 105997

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam - ID No. 109335

Resolution – Authorizing Approval of a Lease Proposal for Property Located at 237 Broad Street

Resolution – Naming of School No. 25

Resolution – Changing the Name of School No. 30

Mrs. Pestana asked for a motion to approve the resolution for a lease proposal.

Resolution – Authorizing Approval of a Lease Proposal for Property Located at 237 Broad Street

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the above resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

The first reading of the following revised policy and regulation was done:

5141.21	Policy	Administering Medication
5141.21	Regulation	Administering Medication

The second reading of the following new policies was done:

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

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

Minutes of the Meetings of October 26 and November 7 and 18, 2019

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

Personnel Report

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

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Environmental Safety Program

Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Resolution – National School Boards Association Advocacy Institute

Resolution – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Resolution – School Board Recognition Month

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

Resolution – Adoption of New Policies

Resolution – Residency Investigative Results and Actions

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam - ID No. 105997

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam - ID No. 109335

Resolution – Naming of School No. 25 – Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25

Resolution – Changing the name of Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 to

Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the agenda be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (abstain- City of Elizabeth Recreation Department), Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Neron congratulated Mrs. Pestana on a phenomenal year and thanked her for her leadership and sacrifice that she made throughout the year. Mr. Neron stated that she is no longer Stephanie Goncalves but Stephanie Pestana. Mr. Neron stated that we are so proud of her work in guiding us through this year and thanked her, as it wasn't an easy year. Mr. Neron stated that they appreciate her and salute her and thanked her for carrying on the legacy in making sure that we can progress as one of the best school districts in the nation. Mr. Neron thanked her for her service and leadership. Mr. Neron wished Happy Holidays to everyone.

Mr. Jacobs echoed the sentiments of Mr. Neron. Mr. Jacobs thanked Mrs. Pestana for her service, leadership, and her excellent job as president. Mr. Jacobs stated that we couldn't have done it without her and we know it was a difficult year but she stepped up to the plate and that is a very big thing. Mr. Jacobs wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Jacobs stated that they did have a policy committee meeting for the end of the year and they covered certain policies that they would like to put into effect for next year including the uniform policy, social media use policy, and SEPAC policy. Mr. Jacobs stated that they are expecting many changes to our policy-making procedures next year. Mr. Jacobs stated that he hopes everyone has a great year.

Mrs. Barbosa congratulated Mrs. Pestana. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she knows it was difficult with what she went through as president. Mrs. Barbosa stated that it was a big burden when you care about things you take it to heart and work with all of your power and lead us in right ways.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the special needs children had a successful field trip and everyone had fun and enjoyed it. Mrs. Barbosa wished Happy Holidays to everyone.

Mrs. Carvalho congratulated Principal of Woodrow Wilson School No. 19 Carolina Cespedes on her retirement. Mrs. Carvalho stated that Ms. Cespedes worked for the district for 29 years and did an amazing job at the school. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she had the pleasure of visiting School No. 19 and the staff was so appreciative of Ms. Cespedes. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she was taken back when she saw the reaction of the students crying and saw the way they felt that Ms. Cespedes was leaving their school and she will definitely be missed. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the school will be in good hands with the new principal and new vice principal.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked Mrs. Pestana for her year as president and stated that it was an honor working with her. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she is looking forward to next year and still working with Mrs. Pestana. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this was definitely a difficult year for all us and sitting up here is not always easy but we come back and do the best that we can do. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the Superintendent for working with them and stated that we all agree to disagree at times but everything that we do from here is with the best interest of the students of the City of Elizabeth. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we are looking forward to a new year and doing more great work.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her colleagues. Mrs. Pestana stated that it has been a joy, a pleasure, and an interesting year to say the least and we agree to disagree. Mrs. Pestana stated that she could not have done this in this role without each and every one of her board colleagues and thanked the Superintendent and stated that they all helped her to complete this year. Mrs. Pestana stated that she is not going anywhere because they need to continue to do the great work that they do each and

every single day for all 29,000 students in the City of Elizabeth. Mrs. Pestana wished all of the staff, teachers, and viewers a Happy Holiday and a Healthy and Joyous New Year.

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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