

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

December 15, 2016
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on December 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, 625 Summer Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Charlene Bathelus presented the following statement at 6:50 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Friday, December 9, 2016. 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 and to our television viewers to this December 15, 2016 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 prior to the commencement of public participation 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. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez (arr. 9:35 p.m.), Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 8

Absent: Mr. Perreira –1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, 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 Kevin Hernandez, tenth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Jeancy Salomon, twelfth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Kathelyn Abreu and Irene Negron, twelfth grade students at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

Ms. Bathelus introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized students from Skills USA who are dedicated to citizenship, leadership, employability, and technical and professional skills training including Camilah Alarcon, Brandi Britt, Nasir Byrd, Edriel Cardoza, Angelynn Collazo, Mahasin DuBose, Najiyyah Dunn, Marvin Steven Hernandez, Nellie Jean, Justin Luciano, Luis Navarro, Nexxy Nunez, Janice Pierre, Rah'naisha Pina, Luis Rubiano, Jeancy Salomon, and Alexia Suazo. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Miss Goncalves recognized students at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy who exhibit great citizenship by always willing to help their fellow students and their school community including Ashley Aguilar, Morgan Beyer, Nayeli DeLaTorre, Camilia Gomez, Jennylee Hinojoza, Tashi Lovejoy, Brian Ore, Andrew Vazquez, and Kevin Velez. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized students in the culinary arts program at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy including Maressa Bento, Alexandra Berrospi, Darius Corria, Emilio Jaquez, Josh Joseph, Jennifer Martinez, Jordyn Mays, Yvel Montelemon, David Padua, and Gloria Tejada and teacher Paul Conte. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated the students and teacher and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Amin recognized Jose Torres, student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy who has excelled in the construction technology program which prepares students for a career in construction trades such as carpentry and teaches students the methods and equipment used to build structures. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated Jose Torres and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Nina recognized Rocio Carmona, student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy who has excelled in the art of barbering which includes cutting, styling, and coloring hair. Mr. Nina stated that in this program students learn the necessary safety and sanitation procedures and beginning students practice on mannequins or each other and then move on to real clients. Mr. Nina and Board members congratulated Rocio Carmona and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized students at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy who have excelled in the area of graphic arts including Katherine Villa, Joana Rodriguez, Brian Rodriguez, Andrew Vazquez, and Joshua Herring. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Nina recognized students at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy who have excelled in the art of baking and learning about essential ingredient groups, basic decorating skills, weights and measures, culinary math, food safety, sanitation, and equipment identification including Ashley Aguilar, Monica Coehlo, Allison Cruz, Jossehlyn Diaz, Di'Aria Garner, Aisha Gibson, Joselyn Jara, Tashi Lovejoy, Curtasia McDougald, Irene Negron, Tania Ovalle, and Yessica Reyes and teacher Thomas Milburn. Mr. Nina and Board members congratulated the students and teacher and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized team members at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy for their excellent contributions in educating our students in the Elizabeth Public

Schools including Michael Chang, Paul Conte, Penelope Hudeen, Anthony Kontos, Patrick McGee, Thomas Milburn, Jonathan Rose, Anthony Santo, Vincent Slavin, Donielle Tuturro, Ronald Ussher, and Stephen Yaniak. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized Keeko DeLaPena, third grade teacher at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, for being named as the 2017 Teacher of the Year by the New Jersey Agricultural Society. Mr. Trujillo stated that the New Jersey Agricultural Society is the oldest agricultural organization of its type in the nation and among the objectives is to educate and inform the public about the role and contributions of agriculture, farming, and related activities and businesses. Mr. Trujillo stated that Keeko DeLaPena was recognized for her work to maintain, promote and teach in the school garden. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated Keeko DeLaPena and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Ms. Bathelus stated that this may be her final Board President's Focus and she would like to remind the members of our community 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 her and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Ms. Bathelus thanked everyone for their support throughout this year including the Superintendent, members of central administration, team members throughout the district, and her fellow Board members for providing her with such a wonderful opportunity to serve as President of the Board. Ms. Bathelus thanked all of the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools for making this last year such a rewarding experience. Ms. Bathelus stated that the students are the reason she is here serving on this Board and it is her hope that our work as a Board in supporting and guiding the Elizabeth Public Schools will help them to achieve their life's dreams. Ms. Bathelus stated that on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education she would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and prosperous holiday season as well as a Happy New Year and may 2017 bring you all happiness, health, and good fortune.

Ms. Bathelus spoke of the tremendous loss the district sustained on the passing of Melissa Rodriguez, resource center teacher at Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Ms. Bathelus then called for a moment of silence.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when Charlene Bathelus was chosen by members of the Board to serve as President she made it clear that it was very important to her to make a connection with the members of our learning community and that our learning community make a connection with the greater Elizabeth community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Ms. Bathelus commenced with two initiatives, the President's Tour and Community Connect. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the President's Tour brought Ms. Bathelus to all of our 35 schools over a period of several weeks during which she was able to connect with students, teachers, and administration at each of our district's schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Community Connect is a program which emphasizes unity between the Elizabeth Public Schools and the greater Elizabeth community which it serves. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a Community Connect newsletter was created which highlights important activities that take place throughout Elizabeth and Union County. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Ms. Bathelus has been there for our students and learning community whether it was to support families of children with autism at the Family Services Town Hall, the young men and women who participate in a variety of activities, the women who received prom dresses as part of a donation event, or our graduates of the Class of 2016 by offering them inspiring words. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Ms. Bathelus has shown great passion, dedication, and determination in her service as President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Ms. Bathelus on behalf of the Elizabeth Public Schools for all she has given to our students, to the Elizabeth Public Schools, to the Board, and to the Elizabeth community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced a video presentation of the highlights showing Ms. Bathelus inspiring our students.

Ms. Bathelus thanked everyone for taking this journey with her to visit every single school and meeting the students, staff and administrators. Ms. Bathelus stated that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to serve as Board President and she thanked everyone.

Mr. Neron stated that it has been an honor to have Ms. Bathelus as our President and thanked her for all of her hard work. Mr. Neron stated that it wasn't an easy year and there were a lot of challenges but regardless Ms. Bathelus stood strong and represented us well throughout this district. Mr. Neron thanked her for her heart, dedication, passion, and wanting to push us through and bring a bright light upon the Elizabeth school district.

Mr. Trujillo thanked Ms. Bathelus and stated that he, too, had the privilege and honor to serve as Board President and he knows that it isn't as easy as it seems. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a very difficult position but it is an honor and he was glad that he supported her and she didn't let him down although they did not always agree. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks they have always had a mutual respect for what we do here and congratulated her on her tenure. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows that she is going to continue to succeed at whatever she does here and her hard work and determination is appreciated not only by himself, his family, and his children but also by the citizens of this great City. Mr. Trujillo thanked Ms. Bathelus for her service.

Board President Bathelus 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."

Ms. Bathelus called upon the first public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, spoke about the death of two staff members, Catherine Conte, kindergarten assistant at School No. 19 for sixteen years, and Melissa Rodriguez, special education teacher at School Nos. 21 and 31, who has a two-year old son. Ms. Moreira stated that there is a GoFundMe page set up in her name and asked for help if you can. Ms. Moreira stated that these ladies gave of themselves to our children and the least we can do is to acknowledge them. Ms. Moreira spoke about her son being hurt at school and the safety concerns at Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Ms. Moreira spoke about the lawsuit filed by staff members against a former employee.

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

Kason Little, student, spoke about an incident at the Academy of Finance.

Ms. Bathelus thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about contracts for the high school band, retro checks for teachers, the lawsuit filed by staff members against a former employee, SEPAC, and the high school drop-out rate.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Salaam Ismial, to address the Board.

Salaam Ismial, 14 Dennon Place, spoke about an anti-violence program that he presented last year and offered again. Mr. Ismial spoke about the high school drop-out rate and doesn't want any community to be left out and left behind.

Ms. Bathelus thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Mercy Ramirez, to address the Board.

Mercy Ramirez, 9 Newcomb Place, spoke about her son and the problems of the special services at School No. 30.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments and requested she speak with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenó. Ms. Bathelus called upon the next public participant, Araceli Espesal, to address the Board.

Araceli Espesal, 240 Palmer Street, spoke about the problems with the special services at School No. 30.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments and requested she speak with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenó. Ms. Bathelus called upon the next public participant, Celia Nunez, to address the Board.

Celia Nunez, 231 South Second Street, spoke about the problems with the special services at School No. 30.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments and requested she speak with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenó. Ms. Bathelus called upon the next public participant, Giovanna LaRosa, to address the Board.

Giovanna LaRosa, 532 Second Avenue, spoke about the problems with the special services department and SEPAC.

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

Ms. Bathelus offered Board member Carlos Trujillo the opportunity to speak and stated that he has served as a Board member for nine years and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he was first elected to the Board in 2007 and it has been a great honor for him to serve this great City in this capacity. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has had the opportunity to work with so many great professionals and so many great people. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has been able to be a part of a lot of the great programs and initiatives in this district. Mr. Trujillo stated that they have been able to open new schools and create opportunities not only for our children educationally but create jobs in our community and give professionals the opportunity to advance in their career. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has been part of so many great things and has so many great memories. Mr. Trujillo stated that this has been an incredible experience for him and he has learned so much here about things that you could never learn anywhere else in life and you could only learn as a public servant. Mr. Trujillo stated that he

thanks God every day for that great opportunity. Mr. Trujillo stated that although his tenure here is coming to an end he feels that he could still be an asset and an advocate for so many voices in the City who need someone to advocate on their behalf. Mr. Trujillo stated that he will continue to be active in the community and it is people like those who spoke tonight that drive his passion and they need a voice and need to be heard. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is so proud to see and has always advocated that the public be a part of this process. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is so important for the public to speak their mind, attend meetings, and to hold those officials which they elect to govern over them to be accountable for their actions and to always push them to be better. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has had the pleasure of having those people in his life and sometimes it seems that they are not being fair to you or perhaps just because they don't agree with you or see things your way that they are against you. Mr. Trujillo stated that the reality is that they come into your life and they push you to be better and they have done that to him and it is something for which he is very grateful. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has served on this Board with many great individuals, past and present, people like himself who enjoy public service and who really want to give back and have a passion. Mr. Trujillo stated that being an elected official is a tough business and the politics of it is rough and tumble sometimes and can even get personal and hurt your family. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows that the people who serve do it with honor and they really want to do it and really have a passion deep down inside. Mr. Trujillo congratulated his colleagues, Mr. Neron and Mr. Rodriguez on their re-election and wished newly elected Mrs. Barbosa the best of luck. Mr. Trujillo stated that special services is a passion of Mrs. Barbosa's as well and something she can relate to and these parents will look to you for leadership. Mr. Trujillo stated that he hopes that she has the courage and the ability every day to look out for them because our biggest concern here is the children and it is an incredible responsibility to have to carry that need to educate children every day and to make sure that this district runs properly and works. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are that conduit between the administration and the public and we are the ones who drive the change with our ideas and our commitment. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have done a great job over the last ten years here and it is work that he is very proud of and he leaves here with his chin up. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows that he made a difference and thanks those who supported him and those who didn't because they made him better. Mr. Trujillo stated that he hopes to continue to serve the public in other capacities. Mr. Trujillo thanked everyone for allowing him to serve them.

Ms. Bathelus thanked Mr. Trujillo.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the minutes of the meetings of November 17 and 30, 2016 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina – 4

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 3

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of October 2016

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina,
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc. (See Revote Below)

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,
Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, stated that the appointment of C.W. is contingent upon his residency according to the residential requirement.

Revote on the Supplemental Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

The motion was carried by the following revote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo
(negative- C.W.), Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Second Supplemental Personnel Report – Additional Services

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho (abstain- M.G.), Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron,
Trujillo (affirmative- M.G., abstain- remainder of report),
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Trujillo,
Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Neron, to table the request from the Technology Department until the next meeting.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees (except for the request from the Technology Department which was tabled).

The motion was carried by the following vote (except for the request from the Technology Department which was tabled):

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mrs. Amin, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Requests for Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer introduced Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC Peter Vosseler to present the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results.

Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC Peter Vosseler 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. Mr. Vosseler stated that since our last Board meeting there have been 35 new cases. Mr. Vosseler 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.

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

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that her next report includes highlights from *InsideEPS*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the first article is *A Winter Wonderland at Elizabeth Public Schools*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the front entrance of the James P. Mitchell Building has been transformed into a Winter Wonderland thanks to the extraordinary creativity of the students and team members of the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the students and team members from each district school and administrative department were invited to create a decorative piece that would be relevant to the winter and holiday season and a wonderful representation of the goodwill, thoughtfulness, and holiday spirit of the Elizabeth Public Schools during this special time of year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that many contributions of varying sizes, mediums, and themes were submitted from throughout the district to produce a truly festive atmosphere. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the display is a magnificent representation of the imagination, inspiration, and passion that fills the classrooms and offices of the Elizabeth Public Schools on a daily basis.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *School No. 12 Shines as AVID Showcase School*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that more than forty educators including assistant superintendents, directors, principals, teachers, and board members from many New Jersey and New York districts visited Elmora School No. 12 to observe its very successful AVID Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in June, Elmora School No. 12 was among the schools throughout the country to be selected as an AVID Showcase School for AVID's Fall 2016 showcase schedule. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the showcase allows for selected AVID schools to show how they are succeeding in institutionalizing the AVID system and demonstrating a commitment to college readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that visitors were impressed with the quality of students' work that was displayed throughout the school starting as early as PreK. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the AVID Team gave a presentation on the implementation of AVID and visitors engaged in conversations with students about WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading) strategies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they also observed students' participation in Philosophical Chairs and Socratic Seminars on controversial topics and were impressed with the students' organized binders and the ability of students to take independent Cornell Notes. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that members of the Plainfield Board of Education attended and invited our district to present the AVID Program at their board meeting as they would like to implement the program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EHS Band and String Orchestra Plays Side-By-Side with NJSO*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth High School's Band and String Orchestra performed with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) in a special concert at the district's Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center on Wednesday, November 16. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the performance, part of the NJSO's Concerts for Young People Series is one of the orchestra's side-by-side concerts which feature student musicians performing alongside members of the professional orchestra. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that under the direction of the NJSO Education and Community Engagement Conductor Jeffrey Grogan, the high school's band and string orchestra performed with the NJSO orchestra in a dress rehearsal prior to the fifty-minute performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the performance marked the twelfth annual side-by-side concert the NJSO has held with Elizabeth High School.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Preparing Students for Postsecondary Education*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools students attended the 2016 College Fair held at the Dunn Sports Center. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that representatives from colleges from throughout the northeast were on hand to meet with students

and parents to provide information about their academic programs, campus life, financial aid opportunities, and scholarships. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that universities represented included well known New Jersey colleges such as Princeton University, Seton Hall University, Drew University, and Rutgers University as well as colleges from Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Colorado among others.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Teacher Named 2017 NJAS Teacher of the Year*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 third grade teacher Keeko DeLaPena has been named the 2017 Teacher of the Year by the New Jersey Agricultural Society. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the New Jersey Agricultural Society (NJAS) is the oldest agricultural organization of its type in the nation and was established in 1781 with the mission to preserve and enhance agriculture, farming, and related activities and businesses in New Jersey through educational, informational, and promotional programs such as Farmers Against Hunger, Learning Through Gardening, and the NJ Agricultural Leadership Development Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that among the several objectives of the NJAS is to educate and inform the public about the role and contributions of agriculture, farming, and related activities and businesses. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Keeko DeLaPena was recognized by the NJAS for her work to maintain, promote, and teach in the school garden and will be presented with the Teacher of the Year Award along with a check for \$300 to use on the school's garden. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Keeko DeLaPena will also be the first speaker at the school's 2017 Best Practices Workshop scheduled for May 31.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we do have seats still available in our three and four-year old program and encouraged parents to register. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our Early Childhood Division is located at 1000 South Elmora Avenue in the Frances C. Smith Center. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that if you are interested in learning about registering your child for our three and four-year old program she encouraged parents to visit School No. 50 and meet with our Director of Early Childhood Education Tracy Crosby who will be able to help you.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Apply, etc.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Amin – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,

Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

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

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Peters Chemical Company, Max Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Weatherproofing Technologies, IXL Learning, Inc.), Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None

Claims List

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Resolution – Approving Form of Contract between EBOE and A1 Uniform City, Inc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Amin, Trujillo – 2

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – School Board Recognition Month

Mrs. Carvalho read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,
Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointing Peters Chemical Company and Approving Form of Contract between EBOE and Peters Chemical Company

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina,
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointing Max Plumbing & Heating, Inc. and Approving Form of Contract between EBOE and Max Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

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

The vote was as following:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Ms. Bathelus – 3

Abstain: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Messrs. Nina, Trujillo – 4

Negative: None

Resolution – Authorizing the Issuance of a Request for Bids Pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law Joint Purchasing Authority – Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Cooperative (school busses)

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,
Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Amendment of Long Range Facility Plan and Pre-Development Application

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo,
Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Expansion of Scope of Services and Related Contract Modification for Suplee, Clooney & Company Professional Services Contract – Auditing Services

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

Mr. Trujillo asked what the original cap was on this contract.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it was \$125,000.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the original cap was \$125,000. Mr. Trujillo asked if we have exceeded \$125,000. yet.

Mr. Kennedy stated that they are still in the process of completing our audit.

Mr. Trujillo stated that there is a potential to go to \$150,000.

Mr. Kennedy explained that this is authorizing them to perform services that we need to complete our consolidated annual financial report.

Mr. Williams stated that this resolution amends their agreement to add additional services unrelated to the audit that they are in the middle of performing. Mr. Williams stated that this is to assist our comptroller and his staff in the preparation of the CAFR report as well as to do some training so that in the future, unlike past years, we won't have to go to outside auditing services for the preparation of this report. Mr. Williams stated that the cost for doing the CAFR report and without the training in past years is about three times what this firm is charging.

Mr. Trujillo thanked Mr. Williams.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if they are going to help us prepare the report as opposed to an outside company doing it which is what has happened in the past.

Mr. Williams explained that this year we will be using an outside auditing firm, Suplee, Clooney to assist the comptroller and his staff in the preparation of the report. Mr. Williams stated that we will also receive training so that in the future we will not have to go to outside sources for the preparation of the report. Mr. Williams stated that using Suplee, Clooney for the purpose he just outlined we are spending quite a bit less than what was previously expended in the past for the outside preparation of the report.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we have a fee of what we paid before.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it was approximately \$200,000.

Mrs. Carvalho asked what is this fee.

Mr. Kennedy responded \$150,000.

Mr. Trujillo stated that essentially we are going to save \$50,000. potentially by having this firm do it rather than the firm that used to do it for \$200,000. Mr. Trujillo stated that this firm may not exceed \$150,000. but there is no guarantee that they won't have to come back and ask for another extension and this is just \$150,000. for now. Mr. Trujillo stated that he did mention the previous auditor that started at \$25,000. and is at \$250,000. the last time he checked but he missed a couple of meetings and that could be a lot higher. Mr. Trujillo stated that apart from preparing the report they would be training staff but that would assume that the staff would continue to be here. Mr. Trujillo stated that those people are subject to being retained annually so there isn't really any guarantee that there will be a savings.

Mr. Williams stated that this auditing firm was hired at the beginning of the year to do the annual audit required by law and they quoted a price of \$125,000. Mr. Williams stated that they are in the middle of doing the audit and the audit will be completed just as with the company that did it before. Mr. Williams stated that any of the companies that perform services for the district you never have a guarantee that they are not going to come back and ask for more nor is there any requirement that the Board approve any request for an increase. Mr. Williams stated that the issue for tonight is much different and the issue is with respect to the CAFR report which is separate from

the audit. Mr. Williams stated that in the past the district has gone out separately to their auditor and spent additional sums of money to get the CAFR prepared. Mr. Williams stated that this year in an effort to improve on that situation we are recommending that this auditor provide training with the expectation that there will be sufficient staff receiving that training to eliminate that expenditure in the future. Mr. Williams stated that it is an effort to improve the situation as opposed to maintaining the status quo and continuing to spend two times or three times as much money as is necessary going forward. Mr. Williams stated that this company is qualified to provide that training and we have a new comptroller who is anxious to have his staff trained properly in the process of some of these statutory required reports. Mr. Williams recommends the adoption of this contract amendment in an effort to improve on the earlier situation.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Negative: Mrs. Amin, Mr. Trujillo – 2

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, reorganization – personnel and job descriptions, L.M., P.V., and A.O.; legal matters, specifically, settlement agreement for A.B., C.C., and E.B.; and T.F.; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, S.F. and J.B.

The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Amin, to go into private session at 9:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Trujillo, Ms. Bathelus – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Mrs. Amin excused herself from the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, to reconvene in public session at 10:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – Docket No. UNN-L-4003-15 – M.S.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – A.F. & J.F. o/b/o T.F.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Description - Coordinator of Building and Properties

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Termination effective December 9, 2016 – A.O.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Description - Coordinator of Mechanics

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Extension of Contract to January 19, 2017 – Acting Coordinator of Mechanics – Luis Milanés

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Description – Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Description – Teacher Leader (Master)

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Change in Title – Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC/Affirmative Action/Guidance

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,

Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Authorization for Submission of 2017-2018 Early Childhood Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2013-15384 – J.B.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Ms. Bathelus – 5

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Establishing Monthly Agenda Meetings

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus asked if there was any old business. Since there was no old business, Ms. Bathelus asked if there was any new business.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that there was a parent last meeting who asked a question about seat belts on busses. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is a New Jersey State Law that all busses have seat belts and we are one of five states in the country. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she was assured that all of our busses have seat belts and our children are being transported in a safe manner.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he received a few phone calls this week and spoke with Mrs. Hugelmeyer about homework. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the amount of homework is becoming an issue not just locally but nationwide in terms of the stress that it puts on students and the worthwhileness of it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he spoke with the Superintendent about it and it is a long term issue and there are no short term fixes to it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are going to continue speaking about it in terms of what we can do to make sure homework is worthwhile, useful, and appropriate in terms of the length and amount.

Ms. Bathelus wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and safe and prosperous new year.

On a motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Nina, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

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