

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

February 21, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called on February 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical 9th Grade @ Charles Harris Academy, 425 Grier Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves presented the following statement at 6:50 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 February 15, 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, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Miss Goncalves – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Chief of Operations 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 Kevyn Mordan, ninth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical 9th Grade @ Charles Harris Academy.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Janayah Faulks, tenth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

The African American National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by James Weldon Johnson was performed by Janayah Faulks, tenth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Luz Mateo-Garcia, ninth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical 9th Grade @ Charles Harris Academy.

Miss Goncalves introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs.

Miss Goncalves introduced a video presentation of the Board President’s *One of a Kind* Tour.

Miss Goncalves introduced Adriana Pacius, ninth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical 9th Grade @ Charles Harris Academy who recited the poem, *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou. Miss Goncalves thanked Adriana for the wonderful performance.

Miss Goncalves introduced Joselyn Gracia, ninth grade student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical 9th Grade @ Charles Harris Academy who recited the poem, *Phenomenal Women* by Maya Angelou. Miss Goncalves thanked Joselyn for the wonderful performance.

Miss Goncalves introduced students from The Liberty Players at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy including Cooper Mendonssa, Ariana Montoya, Angela Ocampo, Celina DaSilva, Jayleen Ojeda, and Diana Benenaula who performed an Evita medley, *Oh What a Circus/Don’t Cry for Me Argentina*, music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. Miss Goncalves thanked them for a wonderful performance.

Miss Goncalves introduced a presentation of *African History – Greatness in America and Throughout the World* in honor of Black History Month. Miss Goncalves introduced Kwao Taylor, physical education and health teacher at Jerome Dunn Academy, who was the emcee for the performances.

Mr. Kwao Taylor thanked everyone for coming and stated that before he begins it is customary in all African celebrations to ask his elders if it is okay for him to proceed and speak. Mr. Taylor thanked his elders and stated that tonight they will start in Africa, specifically in Egypt that was originally called Kemet, or the Land of the Black, and was the first to have a written language called Mdju Netjer, later called hieroglyphics. Mr. Taylor stated that it is called the Cradle of Civilization.

Mr. Taylor introduced Imhotep portrayed by Angel Pulinario, student at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; *African Dance* by students from George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; *Pan Africa* by Erna Letemps, fifth grade teacher at Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23; *African Slave Ship Dance* by students from Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23; *Glory* performed by students from Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23; *Toussaint L’Ouverture* portrayed by Emmanuel Morales, student at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; video presentation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X; *Debate of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Patrick Robinson and Francis Boakye students at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; *Michelle Obama and Barack Obama* portrayed by Raysonna Johnson, student at George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Harvey Tejada, student at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; *African Attire Fashion Show* by students from George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; and *The Sermonette* by Brenda Griggs, child development associate at Mabel G. Holmes Annex School No. 5. Mr. Kwao Taylor congratulated all the students involved in the performances and invited them to come forward. Miss Goncalves invited the teachers and administrators who helped with this performance to join them. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated them for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Hernandez recognized the student government at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy including advisor Samantha Bernardi, president Carolin Villafana, vice

president Fatima Quijada, and secretary Dagmaris Duarte; senior class advisor Xavier Florencia, president Doris Vega, vice president Britney Deza, secretary Monica Coelho, and treasurer Yarilis Roldan; junior class advisor Ellen Glynn, president Jasmine Cedillo, vice president Cindy Rodriguez, secretary Melanie Guillen, and treasurer Marianna Fernandez; sophomore class advisor Caridad Nunez, president Danniela Mitti, vice president Jennifer Ordonez, and secretary Allison Baca; and freshman class advisor Barbara Leyva, president Kevin Mordan, vice president Ashley Lopez, secretary Rosaura Callejas, and treasurer Joselyn Gracia. Mrs. Hernandez and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized Grammy award-winning musician Jackson Chery who is here supporting our youth.

Mr. Neron recognized team members who are stars of excellence at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy including Janice Torpey, Linda Gwizdz, Marysella Mularz, Ishmael Medley, Linda Lewis and Frank Reilly. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized Reverend Britt from Mt. Teman AME Church who is in attendance.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized team members in honor of National School Counseling Week including Chanise Hurst, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Andrea Giuca, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Lisa Rappa, iPrep Academy School No. 8; Jasmine Lee, Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; Jessica Sofranko, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Sarah Brown, John Marshall School No. 20; Joe Sanchez, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; Wendy Maravi, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; Natasha Morrissey, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy; Rosaria Scaff, EHS-Frank J. Cicarell Academy; and Felice Adamcik, High School Welcome Center. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Barbosa recognized Joseph Kupetz for his donation of more than 10,000 books to the EHS-Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Mrs. Barbosa and Board members thanked him for his generosity. Mrs. Barbosa stated that Mr. Kupetz was ill and unable to attend. Principal Michael Cummings accepted the certificate of commemoration on behalf of Joseph Kupetz.

Miss Goncalves stated that she has designated office hours every Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to meet with her and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Miss Goncalves stated that she has visited several of our schools on her President's *One of Kind* Tour. Miss Goncalves stated that with this month being the celebration of Black History Month she saw many great displays honoring the contributions of African-Americans to the Elizabeth community, the State of New Jersey, our nation, and the world.

Miss Goncalves recognized the recent loss of one of those great contributors as Elizabeth lost one of its own, Don Newcombe. Miss Goncalves stated that Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers great Don Newcombe grew up here in Elizabeth and attended Thomas Jefferson High School. Miss Goncalves stated that Don Newcombe played for the first racially integrated baseball team based in the United States in the 20th century, the 1946 Nashua Dodgers of the New England League before becoming the third African-American pitcher in the major leagues in 1949 when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, a season for which he won National League Rookie of the Year. Miss Goncalves stated that Don Newcombe was a four-time All-Star who won the 1956 National League MVP Award and was the first ever recipient of the Cy Young Award in 1956, then given to the best pitcher in the combined major leagues. Miss Goncalves stated that Don Newcombe also served two years in the Korean War in the middle of his playing career and eventually returned to the Dodgers organization after retirement as a player to serve as the Director of Community Affairs.

Miss Goncalves stated that she would like everyone to applaud our students who entertained and educated us this evening about several prominent African-Americans who helped change our society for the better. Miss Goncalves stated that diversity is such an empowering quality that we possess in our schools and in this vibrant City. Miss Goncalves stated that it is so important that we take these opportunities to showcase the various cultures within our community that make us so unique and special.

Miss Goncalves stated that the Board is presenting a resolution tonight to remove the name from School No. 25.

Miss Goncalves stated that an Ad Hoc Committee for School Safety and Security be in effect from this date and shall terminate as of the Reorganization Meeting 2020.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega for the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for School Safety and Security.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Miss Goncalves – 9

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves stated that Mrs. Barbosa, Mrs. Carvalho, and Mr. Jacobs will be on the Ad Hoc Committee for School Safety and Security.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves 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.”

Miss Goncalves called upon the first public participant, Salaam Ismial, to address the Board.

Salaam Ismial, 14 Denman Place, National United Youth Council, spoke about Black History Month, the Amistad curriculum, that this building was not formally named Charles Harris, and that he is here for the African-American children and community.

Miss Goncalves 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 SEPAC and that she was offended that a vulgar word was used at a SEPAC meeting.

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

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, asked for notifications about SEPAC be sent to parents with children who have a 504. Mrs. Moreira spoke about African-American studies and stated that the high school websites have no information about electives and the high school tours in April are a little late to get information.

Miss Goncalves thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Patricia Gallante, 750 Grier Avenue, stated that there is no name on this building and it is not recognized as Charles Harris Academy. Ms. Gallante stated that Shade Lee was a proud Tuskegee Airman who was from Elizabeth. Ms. Gallante stated that the policy for naming a school is important and should involve the community. Ms. Gallante asked about the solar panels on the buildings.

Miss Goncalves thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the solar panel project is currently being worked on. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the high schools brochure goes out in the beginning of the year and there are several information sessions set up.

Reverend George Britt, 160 Madison Avenue, thanked the students for the performances for the history of Africa. Rev. Britt spoke about the Amistad law to implement into the curriculum.

Miss Goncalves thanked him for his comments.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a two-hour presentation was made at the board meeting last week of Amistad. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Amistad presentation will be on our website.

Since there were no public participants signed in to address the Board, Miss Goncalves closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of legal matters, specifically, settlement agreements A.O., S.A., termination - A.S., interview, ratification of name change. The board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to go into private session at 8:48 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Miss Goncalves – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Neron excused himself from the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 10:22 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or

modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to accept the above report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Miss Goncalves added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Haitian Independence Day

Resolution – Termination – A.S.

Resolution – Removing Name from School No. 25

Miss Goncalves asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the Meetings of January 7 and 17, 2019 (Agenda and Business)

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2018

Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with waiver of fees

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with fees

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – National School Social Workers' Week

Resolution – Read Across America

Resolution – St. Joseph's Day

Resolution – St. Patrick's Day

Resolution – Youth Art Month

Resolution – Women's History Month

Resolution – National School Breakfast Week

Resolution – National Nutrition Month

Resolution – Warren County Coordinated Transportation Services for 2019-2020

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – NJ Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC)

Resolution – Residency Investigative Results

Resolution – Appointing Safeway Contracting and Approving Form of Contract

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – V.N., L.A., R.M.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2017-7190) B.W.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2017-14194) N.A.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2017-4590) J.J.

Resolution – Termination effective February 21, 2019 – M.D.

Resolution – Termination effective February 7, 2019 – J.J.

Resolution – Termination effective January 22, 2019 – D.M.

Resolution – Appointing and Approving Clean All Tech

Resolution – Appointment of Assistant Comptroller

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – A.O.
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – S.A.
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – J.J.
Resolution – Haitian Independence Day
Resolution – Termination – A.S.
Resolution – Removing Name from School No. 25

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (negative- Personnel Report – M.M., S.F., J.F., J.F., C.M., N.A., A.K., C.C., M.C., A.T., S.B., A.B., A.N.; abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Preschool of Rock/Rockness Music, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, Division of Youth Services – Youth Service Bureau), Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – N.A., G.D., M.G.; Superintendent’s Report – Considerations- J.C.; Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities- City of Elizabeth), Mrs. Chevres (abstain- Personnel Report – C.A., J.R.; Superintendent’s Report – Considerations- C.A., J.R.; Award of Contracts Report- Mike Spiers, TPR Education, LLC dba The Princeton Review, Prevention Links, ShipCo Transport Inc.), Mrs. Hernandez (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Preschool of Rock/Rockness Music, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, Division of Youth Services – Youth Service Bureau), Mr. Jacobs (negative- Personnel Report – M.M., S.F., J.F., J.F., C.M., N.A., A.K., C.C., M.C., A.T., S.B., A.B., A.B.), Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Preschool of Rock/Rockness Music, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, Division of Youth Services – Youth Service Bureau).

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus stated that for the minutes of the January 17, 2019 Board meeting pending board approval, a correction needs to be made. Ms. Bathelus stated that her abstention should be negative on the Personnel Report.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he would like to correct January 17, 2019 Board of Education minutes where the agenda was passed in whole and it has his vote as abstaining on the Personnel Report. Mr. Jacobs stated that his vote was a no vote on the Personnel Report.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he will review the votes.

The first reading of the following revised bylaw was done:

File Code 9400(X) Exhibit Board Self-Evaluation Form

Mr. Jacobs stated that he was so proud of our children today putting on the show. Mr. Jacobs stated that when he watched them in practice earlier this week, he knew we were going to have a phenomenal show. Mr. Jacobs stated that during the Glory scene a young lady stepped in all of a sudden because she wasn’t even supposed to be playing that part and did a wonderful, amazing job. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is proud of his colleagues and superintendent and the great many hours of work that we put into our policy-making decisions and during our retreats and working on our equity policy. Mr. Jacobs stated that we are moving forward in our district to provide an equitable education to all of our students which we demonstrate in our 3Es. Mr. Jacobs stated that we are moving forward for workforce diversity and also professional development for all of our teachers to understand to reach our children. Mr. Jacobs stated that we can see when we encourage and support our children, they can do amazing things. Mr. Jacobs stated that we’ve seen it from the graduates from our schools and it makes him feel so proud to be a board member here in Elizabeth. Mr. Jacobs stated that every time we have these shows, like at School No. 12 and today, the talent that our children possess can bring you to tears. Mr. Jacobs stated that it makes us realize how important our job is as board members and the fact that we have to really try as hard as we can to do better for all of our children.

Miss Goncalves thanked the public, our viewers, administrators, and everyone who partook in this amazing celebration tonight.

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, 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, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 8

Negative: None

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