

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

February 22, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called on February 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., at John Marshall School No. 20, 521 Magnolia Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Maria Carvalho welcomed everyone at 6:40 p.m. to John Marshall School No. 20 for tonight's meeting.

Present for the opening performances and presentations were Board members Mrs. Barbosa (arr. 7:10 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mr. Nina, and Mrs. Carvalho.

Mrs. Carvalho called for a moment of silence for Daniela Genaro, student at Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 who passed away on Saturday and for the victims of the tragic events that took place in Parkland, Florida last week.

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 Justin Mensah, eighth grade student at John Marshall School No. 20.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was played.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced bagpiper Matthew Glackin, Director of Security, who performed *Amazing Grace* in memory of Daniela Genaro and the victims of the Parkland, Florida tragedy.

The African American National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, by James Weldon Johnson was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Emily Balseca, eighth grade student at John Marshall School No. 20.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced students in the 4th and 5th Grade Choir at John Marshall School No. 20 who performed Hail John Marshall, author unknown. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced students in the John Marshall School No. 20 *Disney's Musicals in Schools* After School Program who performed a song from *The Jungle Book*, *Bare Necessities*, written by Terry Gilkyson. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mr. Jacobs recognized Pauline Shirley, Chairperson of Elizabethport Neighborhood Preservation Organization, as an influential member of Elizabeth's African American community and read a resolution honoring her for working tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the Elizabethport residents by organizing and establishing community gardens, block watches, annual clean-ups and beautification projects, food distribution to needy families, summer bus rides for children, drug prevention seminars, and monthly Elizabethport resident meetings. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated Pauline Shirley and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Willie Mae Banks as an influential member of Elizabeth's African American community. Ms. Bathelus read a resolution honoring her for her roles as community advocate, educator, and parent who served in many organizations including Innovative Project Headstart, The Women's Committee for Quality Education, CORE, CAFIO, The Black Educators of Elizabeth, UTCAO, Inc., Title I, NAACP, the National Parent Organization, and The Kinship Connection. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated Willie Mae Banks and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Willie Mae Banks thanked the Board and stated that she is a mother of 10 children and grandmother of 12 and she has never stopped. Mrs. Banks told parents not to stop and to push their children hard and stand by them.

Mr. Neron read a resolution recognizing the Vulcan Society of Elizabeth, formerly Men of Color Helping All, for their efforts to become visible positive role models for inner-city youth and mentors for young black men who were in desperate need of guidance and set fair labor practices, job opportunities, and upward mobility in the ranks of the fire department as their primary missions. Mr. Neron introduced Elizabeth Fire Department Chief Peterson and Captain Darryl Robinson for their exceptional efforts to create equal opportunities for minors to serve and protect the communities as firemen. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Chief Peterson thanked the Board of Education for this recognition and stated that we are out there for you and we actively try to recruit 18 to 35 year olds in minority neighborhoods to be firefighters. Chief Peterson stated that in June we will have our first female black firefighter, Captain Robinson's daughter.

Captain Darryl Robinson thanked the Board for the honor and stated that Chief Peterson went beyond being the first African American firefighter in Elizabeth to become Battalion Chief Officer.

Miss Goncalves recognized school counselors in celebration of National School Counseling Week including Lisa Baginski-Matlosz, Linda Bean, Edison Berrio, Wilma Helm, Valerie Hendon, Marc Korbman, Lourdes Labbate, Deborah Leff, Evalyn Leonard, and Janet Mazzarella. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Barbosa recognized team members at John Marshall School No. 20 for their commitment of time and talent to making a positive difference in student achievement including Build Teacher Leaders Catherine Colon, Jessica Kaingu, Brenda McClinton, Arlene Morales, and Deborah Vosseler; CLI Model Teachers Raphaela Calabrese, Janil Diaz, Marilyn Jean Philippe, and Tamika Sanabria; Bilingual teacher Claudia Restrepo; teachers who are also the directors of Disney's Musicals in Schools After School Program Kelli Collins and John Vicente; social worker Sara LaFace; guidance counselor Sarah Brown; head secretary Agnes Barone; and security guard John Flowers. Mrs. Barbosa and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Principal of John Marshall School No. 20 Nichol Comas thanked the Board of Education and central administration for their support. Mrs. Comas thanked her team at John Marshall School No. 20 and stated that it is an honor to serve and work with you.

Mr. Nina recognized custodians Ken Sugzda, Luis Castillo, Josue Fajardo, and Luis Zurita at George Washington School No. 1 who responded to a call at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday that the school had been vandalized and they worked all night to ensure that the school would be

prepared to host the Special Education Saturday Recreation Program. Mr. Nina and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Head Custodian Ken Sugzda thanked the Board and stated that they worked all night to clean up an unimaginable mess because they did not want to disappoint the 500 children who were coming early Saturday morning for the Special Needs Recreation Program.

Miss Goncalves recognized Betty Vanderveer, security guard at J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy, for performing the Heimlich maneuver and preventing a student from choking. Miss Goncalves and Board members congratulated Betty Vanderveer and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized athletic trainer Crista Sciancalepore who demonstrated acts of heroism on two occasions. Mr. Neron stated that a spectator at a girls' varsity basketball game became unresponsive and Crista monitored the individual's breathing and circulation until EMS arrived and was credited with saving the man's life. Mr. Neron stated that during a swim meet, Crista responded to a medical emergency by giving three rescue breaths to a female swimmer who became unconscious after swimming in a 200-yard race. Mr. Neron stated that the athlete responded and was transported to the hospital by EMS. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated Crista Sciancalepore for her extraordinary lifesaving acts and presented her with a certificate of commemoration.

Athletic Trainer Crista Sciancalepore thanked the Board and stated that she was just doing what she was trained to do.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Martin Szypulski, senior at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, who was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America Patriot's Path Council in Cedar Knolls, New Jersey on December 28, 2017. Ms. Bathelus read a resolution honoring Martin Szypulski as a member of Boy Scout Troop 145 in Clark, New Jersey who has demonstrated strong leadership abilities and exhibited a strong sense of duty, honor, and patriotism making him a clear example of the best qualities of American youth and for his unwavering passion and determination in attaining the distinguished honor of Eagle Scout. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated Martin Szypulski and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Eagle Scout Martin Szypulski thanked the Board for the honor and stated that he began Boy Scouts at the age of 12 and his service project was the beautification of a firehouse in Clark to complete the requirements necessary to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Jacobs recognized Edella Rapada and Elie Rapada, prekindergarten and kindergarten students from Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, for having reached an elite level in the performance arts that many aspiring performers do not reach in a lifetime of training and preparation. Mr. Jacobs stated that the siblings were two of the four children selected to play the role of Tam in the Broadway musical Miss Saigon this past summer and performed during its run until last month. Mr. Jacobs stated that they have also performed in various commercials and television programs as extras. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated Edella and Elie in their outstanding achievements in the performance arts and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized the Girls' Fall Soccer Team and stated that they had a winning record of 15 wins, 5 losses, and 2 ties. Mrs. Carvalho recognized the student athletes including Mariaelena Torres, All Union County Conference, All Conference 1st Team, and received an athletic scholarship to Catawba College in Salisbury, NC; Dyana Romao, All Conference 1st Team; Maria Dilandro, All Conference 1st Team; Victoria Bastos, All Conference Honorable Mention; Grace Divine Nya, All Conference Honorable Mention; Sarah Suero, All Conference

Honorable Mention; head coach Antonio Almeida and assistant coach Anthony DePasquale. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated the student athletes and coaches and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized the Girls' Fall Volleyball Team including Alejandra Echeverry, All Conference 1st Team; Narcise Gelin, All Conference 1st Team; Yelitza Laro, All Conference Honorable Mention; Keanna Grelich, All Conference Honorable Mention; Mary Ann Vargas, All Conference Honorable Mention; Chrislene Lovius, All Conference 1st Team; and Zaribel Barbosa, All Conference Honorable Mention; head coach Tania Labrador and assistant coach Javier Santalla. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and Board members congratulated the student athletes and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Barbosa recognized Dunja Bradaric from the Girls' Fall Tennis Team for being selected for All Conference Honorable Mention and head coach Joe Carnevale and assistant coach Jennifer Craven. Mrs. Barbosa and Board members congratulated Dunja Bradaric and coaches and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized the Boys' Fall Soccer Varsity Team for being Union County Co-Champions including Josser Amaya, Union County 1st Team, State 3rd Team, All Conference 1st Team; Henry Chavez, All Union County 1st Team, All State 2nd Team, All Conference 1st Team; Youkendly Pacius, All Conference Honorable Mention; Cesar Pereira, All Union County 2nd Team, All State Honorable Mention, All Conference 1st Team; Matthew Almeida, Nahuel Barboza, Nelson Capela, Renato Castillo-Maguina, Sebastian Diaz, Denilson Dominique, Herney Echeverry, Sebastian Escobar, Ian Flores, Luis Flores, Andrew Gramero, Manny Grova III, Michael Guzman, Matheus Jaimes, Andrew Martins, Stanley Marshall, Max Mejia, Rodrigo Moreira, Ariel Reyes, Eduardo Santana, Christopher Segura, Juan Vidal, and Alejandro Zapata; head coach Joseph Cortico, assistant coaches Louis Argondizza, Gustavo DellaCorte, and Jacques Gonzalez. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated the student athletes and coaches and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron stated that we have two guest speakers who will speak about our district initiatives. Mr. Neron introduced Professor Eric Nersesian from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to present the partnership between Elizabeth Public Schools and NJIT Virtual Learning.

Eric Nersesian, Professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology, presented the NJIT/Elizabeth Educational Technology Collaboration. Professor Nersesian stated that the 2017-2018 current research project is the Educational Efficacy of Virtual Reality in the Public School System in the Chemistry Class with science teacher Jason Goldstein at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Professor Nersesian stated that Oculus Education partnered with research institutions, Yale Center for Health and Learning Games and New Jersey Institute of Technology, to explore virtual reality's impact on learning outcomes and retention in public schools. Professor Nersesian stated that by comparing learning outcomes across students exposed to similar curriculum presented in virtual reality, textbook, and traditional computer game form, this study aims to formally assess virtual reality's potential in secondary education. Professor Nersesian explained a PowerPoint slide showing three classes of study groups using traditional textbook study, educational game study, and educational virtual reality study and the timeline for the study. Professor Nersesian stated that in September 2017 they prepared the study, October 2017 was a pre-assessment, and the study was conducted in November, December, and January. Professor Nersesian stated that in February 2018 was the post assessment and the data analysis will be from March through August 2018. Professor Nersesian stated that the manuscript preparation will begin in September 2018 and conclude in February 2019. Professor Nersesian stated that they will continue the research study for 2018-2019 chemistry classes with longer term use of virtual reality in class with two control classes and two experimental classes. Professor Nersesian stated that the focus will be on student engagement, material relation, and

comprehension. Professor Nersesian stated that the virtual reality app is used in robotics class with science teacher Virginia Tantow. Professor Nersesian explained a PowerPoint slide showing a robotics classroom activity using programming skills to make a robot draw a square and then make the robot follow a complex path. Professor Nersesian stated that they will begin new research study for 2018-2019 with the use of virtual reality in robotics class with one control class and one experimental class. Professor Nersesian stated that the focus will be on student engagement, material relation, and comprehension. Professor Nersesian stated that for 2018-2019 the research and development projects will focus on relating and engaging students for the second year of research study for chemistry and robotics using virtual reality. Professor Nersesian stated that for 2019-2020 the research and development projects include forensics virtual curriculum development, forensics app development, and chemistry AP virtual labs. Professor Nersesian stated that the long term research and development projects include nursing and military school, STEM classes that benefit from physical simulations, middle school career preparation, positive role models to direct students to STEM, and 360 videos in professional work environments. Professor Nersesian stated that the challenges include training teachers and students, having IT support staff trained and familiar in the specialized equipment, and hardware and course management logistics. Professor Nersesian stated that the potential benefits of virtual reality in education include expanding students learning experience by providing unique, safe virtual environments and scenarios, not accessible in reality, to apply content knowledge, social dynamics, increased student engagement, material relatability, classroom/instructional management, personalized learning, new learning techniques and innovative teaching and learning strategies, provides alternate instructional modality, and integration of technology in education. Professor Nersesian stated that the potential benefits of students involved in the virtual reality development project include to deepen the understanding of the evolution of technology by experiencing the engineering design and inquiry process in real-life applications, develop collaboration, team work, and communication skills between the NJIT team and EPS team, high school student and college student mentoring, career and college exposure, and interaction with science and engineering professionals. Professor Nersesian thanked the school board for their support and for allowing us to conduct this study in your community.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for the presentation.

Ms. Bathelus introduced guest speaker Kwao Taylor, physical education teacher at Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts, to present the Leaders of Technique program

Kwao Taylor, physical education teacher at Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts, stated that in 2014 he started a young man's leadership training program, LOT, and was formally named Leaders of Tomorrow. Mr. Taylor stated that because of copyright issues the name was changed to Leaders of Technique, LOT. Mr. Taylor stated that this is a manhood training group for the six, seventh, and eighth grade children to instill character traits and character values in these young men. Mr. Taylor stated that a lot of these young men have leadership qualities that they don't know and are leading in the wrong direction. Mr. Taylor stated that the six pillars of success include respect, responsibility, caring, trust, kindness, and citizenship. Mr. Taylor stated that the young men have actualized the character traits and he tries to put the definitions in layman's terms and not only in rote memorization because they can recite these six pillars as well as the definitions. Mr. Taylor stated that respect is the golden rule treating people the way I want to be treated, responsibility is doing what is right even though no one is watching; caring is stepping outside myself making my brother's problems my problems; trust means my word is my bond and I will do what I say I will do; kindness means don't hate but congratulate, appreciate, and celebrate giving compliments that don't cost a thing; and citizenship means my community is only as good as I make it and if it is to be it is up to me. Mr. Taylor stated that they also have a LOT Pledge which is as leaders of technique we pledge to accept our roles as leaders and make a positive contribution to our family, communities, and schools. Mr. Taylor stated that putting the pillars and pledge into action we have incentive field trips. Mr.

Taylor stated that he is monitoring his young men's behavior as well as their grades for them to be able to participate in the out of building field trips. Mr. Taylor stated that they go to Nets Games with the Player Assist Program, Jets Games with the help of Mrs. Tamika Bowles, and this year we are set to go to the African American Museum of History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Mr. Taylor stated that they do numerous school performances including talent shows, pep rallies, and dance routines choreographed by himself. Mr. Taylor stated that this not only builds character it builds confidence and it builds stage presence. Mr. Taylor stated that a lot of them at age 6 were not blessed with the ability to play the violin or have a private teacher. Mr. Taylor stated that he is trying to infuse that kind of confidence in these young men. Mr. Taylor stated that he teaches them all how to tie a necktie because some of them do not know how to tie a necktie and some of them do not even have a necktie. Mr. Taylor stated that he takes them through mock job interviews where they have to tie their necktie right there before him. Mr. Taylor stated that for the actual interview we focus on three things, professionalism, confidence, and knowledge. Mr. Taylor stated that it's not the specific job that they are going for but it is the process. Mr. Taylor stated that it is what his father taught him which is how to actually interview. Mr. Taylor stated that the professionalism is how you speak and how you dress and slang does not come out of your mouth. Mr. Taylor stated that he tells the young men that it is no problem to transform into a totally different person for this interview to get that job. Mr. Taylor stated that the confidence is a firm handshake, posture, and the volume in which you speak. Mr. Taylor stated that knowledge is knowledge of that actual job and a lot of young men coming up don't understand that you have to know something about that actual job you are interviewing for and do a little bit of research. Mr. Taylor stated that they have also had a book club discussion based on the anti-gang book *Mo, The Pallbearer*, by Ralph Burgess, where the lead character is right on the fence as many of our young men are. Mr. Taylor stated that they are great kids and they want to do right but they are getting pulled in so many directions that it is really up to who is willing to motivate these kids to do right. Mr. Taylor stated that they are very active and serious about our community service piece. Mr. Taylor stated that they are part of the Elizabeth Clean Up the Port, the Puerto Rico Relief, One Community One Family, they fed the homeless on Thanksgiving Day with Councilman Carlos Cedenio and Christ Fellowship Church, and stuffed Halloween bags at the Elizabethport Community Center. Mr. Taylor stated that in doing these things we notice that not only do they walk through the hallways with their heads up high but their GPAs are going up and the numbers of their suspensions and write-ups are going down. Mr. Taylor stated that what he tells them on a daily basis is that confidence looks good on them and when you believe in yourself you can do so many things. Mr. Taylor stated that they have also been recognized by the City of Elizabeth at the National Night Out Event, City Councilmembers recognized the Leaders of Technique at a City Council meeting, and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 received Character.org Promise and Practice Award because of the hard work and dedication of Leaders of Technique. Mr. Taylor stated that the Elizabeth Board of Education and central administration have agreed to expanding his program to School Nos. 1, 6, 16, and 27. Mr. Taylor stated that he has lead teachers at those buildings. Mr. Taylor stated that he is extremely humbled and excited to know that they believe in him and, in turn, we are guiding these kids to believe in themselves.

Mr. Neron commended Mr. Taylor on the great work that he does each and every day with our young men. Mr. Neron stated that the work Mr. Taylor is speaking about is mission work and he is on a mission to save lives of young men in our community who may not have role models and may not have fathers in their homes. Mr. Neron stated that in order to be a man, you have to see a man. Mr. Neron stated that Mr. Taylor has done that in providing that model, that blueprint, for a lot of young men in our community. Mr. Neron stated that they commend him on the expansion of the program, of his vision and the great work that he does. Mr. Neron stated that they stand behind this legacy that he is setting forth in our students. Mr. Neron stated that a lot of the kids will not miss school in order to make sure that they are in school to get to the after school program. Mr. Neron stated that it is like a brotherhood and a serious belonging and that speaks volumes. Mr. Neron thanked Mr. Taylor for the great work that he does and wished his entire team all the best.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Mr. Taylor and stated that she appreciates as a teacher that it is important to empower our students. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that we are looking forward to working together with him and his ideas to empower our students.

Board President Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 8:21 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 16, 2018. 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 February 22, 2018 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 this evening 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, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8
Absent: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

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

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the President’s Focus includes the Elizabeth Board of Education and Elizabeth Education Association have agreed to establish a sick leave bank for employees in the EEA bargaining unit who are eligible to participate and would provide an opportunity to obtain additional sick days due to a catastrophic or life-threatening condition. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the sick leave bank committee will meet tomorrow to discuss its implementation. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we will get through these difficult times together and we, our district team members, parents and guardians, members of City government, first responders, and residents of the Elizabeth community must continue to work tirelessly together to ensure that our children are safe. Mrs. Carvalho stated that our children deserve the opportunity to grow with a sole focus of fulfilling their potential and it is our collective responsibility to make that happen. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she has designated office hours every Tuesday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to meet and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it has been a very challenging and an incredibly emotional week. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that before we enter the public participation portion of the meeting she offered some guidance on some important topics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated the facts in regards to the incident pertaining to the missing student. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our administration did everything possible to assist in this matter. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as previously indicated through a communication that was provided to our school community the incident is being investigated to determine why the child went missing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is important to recognize at this time that there is no indication from the Prosecutor's Office that there was a crime, that there is no known danger to the public, and that it is currently deemed an incident. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that if you have any thoughts or concerns related to this matter, or if you have any information that may be relevant to this investigation you may speak with our police officers who are here this evening and willing to listen to your concerns. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education is not the forum to discuss matters and details as they relate to the incident as it remains under investigation by the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that relating to the concerns of the tragic passing of one of our students, the New Jersey Department of Health released a statement yesterday only to confirm that our student had influenza. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that because of privacy concerns the New Jersey Department of Health did not release any additional information. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as previously outlined in our recent communications to our community, we consult with our medical advisor and the Elizabeth Health Department on a regular basis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they have instituted protocols in order to reduce the possibility of additional cases of this illness as well as other contagious diseases common each Winter. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated the protocols include keeping children home from school when they have a fever and stated that she understands that this can be difficult arranging childcare and arranging with employers but it is in the best interest of your children and the children of our schools that they stay home until they fully recover. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all schools have been sanitized each day since the Fall with a neutral disinfectant, referred to as DS1, which is effective in removing all pathogens. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our schools have been cleaned in a more aggressive manner these past couple of months including all touch points. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this includes doorknobs, railings, students' desks, etc. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we encourage all of our team members to be vigilant and to disinfect these potential areas. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the District will continue to disinfect all schools and will continue to be diligent about encouraging good hand hygiene. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in addition, all busses have been sanitized as well. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that practical good hygiene and keeping the spaces that we occupy clean and sanitized is a responsibility that we all share. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is important to observe these practices in all areas of our lives to keep ourselves and others as healthy as possible whether it be at school, home, or in the public. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked everyone for their support and cooperation in keeping our learning community healthy and safe.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that pertaining to the tragic event that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that before she is Superintendent of Schools she is a mother of a daughter. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she felt the same feelings as probably every parent who has a child in our schools felt when they learned what had taken place. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that being able to have both of those perspectives she is confident that we have sound, safe measure in place to help keep our students and team members safe. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as previously stated in recent communications to our community we presently employ security guards at all of our schools and office locations districtwide, police officers in targeted locations, extensive security monitoring, metal detectors and camera surveillance systems, all schools are locked throughout the day, and all visitors including employees are required to present identification which is scanned through the teacher parent authentication system (TPAS) before being allowed to enter any district building while any unauthorized are prohibited from entering. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is something that is adhered to at every site. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we provide significant professional development in security strategies throughout the year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all of our

approximately 29,000 students continue to practice lockdown and emergency drills on a monthly basis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we believe all the processes stated above are the hallmark of a strong security practice. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have received requests from other districts to share information about our safety and security practices. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additionally we regularly meet with former law enforcement officers who have significant experience over the course of many years with backgrounds in juvenile investigations, SWAT crisis investigations, and collectively have a vast amount of experience and invaluable knowledge to offer in helping us to develop and refine our policies and protocol.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to everyone who came here this evening to speak on any of these topics we appreciate your concerns for the members of our school community and your active participation in the dialogue pertaining to these important topics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is very important that we do our very best to understand and be sensitive to the fact that there have been friends and family dramatically affected by the events of this past week and to be mindful of them when we are expressing our thoughts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that everyone's thoughts and feelings are important and we want to make sure that we handle them and process them in the most appropriate manner.

Board President Carvalho 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. Carvalho called upon the first public participant, Joe Cortico, to address the Board.

Joe Cortico, EEA President, expressed his sincere condolences to the student's family. Mr. Cortico stated that the custodians work very hard to keep the schools clean. Mr. Cortico stated that he has a safety concern about the portable classrooms.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Jon Lippi, to address the Board.

Jon Lippi, EEA Vice President, echoed the sentiments of EEA President Joe Cortico. Mr. Lippi spoke about the medical waiver payments owed to members.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, James Carey, to address the Board.

James Carey, 239 Third Street, spoke about a child who lives across the street from one school but goes to a different school ten blocks away and stated that there are segregated schools and the school lottery system needs to be overhauled.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Allison Gomez, to address the Board.

Allison Gomez, pre-kindergarten teacher, stated that a food truck rammed a TCU and the repairs have not been done, parents were not allowed to sign up tonight to speak, and asked if she will be retaliated against as was done in the past.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, stated that the district is reactive and not proactive and spoke about the lack of communication with a meningitis case last winter. Mrs. Lorenz spoke about the open civil rights cases against the district and requested that a flyer for Advocacy in Action be posted on the district website.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, expressed her heartfelt condolences to the Genaro family. Mrs. Moreira stated that there is a lack of transparency and not a consistent way to communicate about serious issues. Mrs. Moreira stated that last week she spoke about proactive ways to prevent the flu and the Superintendent stated that there were only 16 cases in the district. Mrs. Moreira asked why the Superintendent didn't mention last week that the schools were being scrubbed.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Maria DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria DaRassi, 420 Fay Avenue, spoke about the flu and read the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for the flu, what to do if you have the flu and the steps to take to protect others.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Patricia Gallante, 750 Grier Avenue, stated that there is no indication in the agenda when the public participation would be held and that parents came to speak and were told to go home. Ms. Gallante stated that they renamed a school after Charles Harris but there is no indication on the façade that the school was renamed.

Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Carvalho closed this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Ryan Scerbo, Esq., DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and Andrew Conte from Gable Associates to brief the Board on an update of the solar renewable energy program.

Ryan Scerbo, Esq., DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP briefed the Board on an overview of the procurement process and the three options proposed. Andrew Conte from Gable Associates presented a summary of the evaluation of proposals received in response to the Request for Proposals including an economic analysis of each option and a recommended option. Mr. Scerbo stated that the next steps include that the Board votes on the recommendation, the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is finalized within 30 to 45 days following the award, and all solar projects are completed within 12 months from the date of execution of the Power Purchase Agreement.

Mr. Jacobs stated that the report didn't include buy-outs and asked what is the HESPA buyout.

Mr. Conte stated that it would be the fair market value at the end of the agreement. Mr. Conte stated that if the amount is known ahead of time then it would not have tax advantages.

Mr. Scerbo stated that the IRS views this as the developer is the owner. Mr. Scerbo stated that if you know the buy-out price now then you are both owners and there is no tax savings.

Mr. Nina asked about the total cost of the project.

Mr. Conte stated that the cost of the project is the cost of electricity which is about 4.8 cents per kWh.

Mr. Nina asked if at the end of fifteen years will the savings \$1 million.

Mr. Conte responded that at the end of the fifteen-year term the savings will be \$1 million.

Mr. Jacobs stated that much savings over fifteen years is a step in the right direction.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked them for the report.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Peter Vosseler, Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC/Affirmative Action/Guidance who presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results.

Mr. 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 74 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.

Mr. Nina requested that the report include the year of enrollment.

Mr. Vosseler stated that the information will be included in future reports.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Minutes of the Meetings of January 3 and 18, 2018

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, that the minutes of the meetings of January 3 and 18, 2018 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2017

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (affirmative- F.M.; abstain- remainder of reports), Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron (abstain- F.M.), Nina (abstain- F.M.), Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- F.M.) – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs asked about the PARCC program at School No. 1.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with the Board's approval the program can start and then be approved retroactively in March.

Mr. Jacobs asked about the tutoring programs in the schools and the budget for it.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they will look into it.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if the schools with stragglers can have more money to help them.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the budget is set in advance.

Tuition Report

Supplemental Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with Fees

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the reports be accepted with a waiver of all fees for the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Abstain: Mr. Nina – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Revised Schedule of Board Meetings

Resolution – Music in Our Schools Month

Resolution – National School Social Workers' Week

Resolution – Read Across America

Resolution – St. Joseph's Day

Resolution – St. Patrick's Day

Resolution – Women's History Month

Resolution – Youth Art Month

Resolution – National School Breakfast Week

Resolution – National Nutrition Month

Resolution – Warren County Special Services School District Coordinated Transportation

Services for the 2018-2019 School Year

Resolution – Authorizing Award of a Power Purchase Agreement to HESP Solar, LLC

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Burlington County Special Services School District Coordinated Transportation Services for 2017-2018 School Year

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Authorizing the Issuance of a Request for Bids for Lease Purchase for Five School Busses

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

The second reading of the following revised policy and exhibit was done:

6171.3 Policy Title I

9351 Regulation Board Workshop Calendar

Resolution – Revised Policy and Regulation

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

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, tenure, S.C., N.G., and J.T.

The Board will reconvene in public to add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to go into private session at 9:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 10:35p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Workers' Compensation Claim (2016-8037) – A.G.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Workers' Compensation Claim (2014-31600) – G.M.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Workers’ Compensation Claim (2015-24663) – M.V.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Workers’ Compensation Claim (2014-4968) – S.W.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam – M.P.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Fit for Duty Exam – V.L.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Extension for Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – Maria Lojo

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Nina – 2

Negative: None

Resolution – Acceptance of Retirement effective May 1, 2018 – J.T.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Nina – 2

Negative: None

Mr. Neron thanked everyone for their well wishes and prayers for his new baby boy, Noah and that mother and baby are doing well.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that there will be a SEPAC meeting on March 6, 2018.

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Nina, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 8

Negative: None

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