

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 11-24-15  
Presented at  
Bd. Mtg. 3-19-15

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

February 26, 2015  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on February 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, 505-517 Morris Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Ana Maria Amin presented the following statement at 7:40 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Monday, February 23, 2015. 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 February 26, 2015 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 one hour prior to the advertised start of the meeting 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Reverend Steffie Bartley, Pastor of New Hope Memorial Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Leslie Estevez, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students in the Voices of Harmony and Jazz Band at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Leslie Estevez, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mrs. Amin introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Amin introduced students in the Jazz Band at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 who performed *Jumpin at the Woodside* by Count Basie, *Paco's Canon* arranged by George Shutack and *Electric Lady* by Jay Chattaway. Mrs. Amin thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Amin introduced students in the Voices of Harmony at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 who performed *Faithfully* by Jonathan Cain from Journey. Mrs. Amin thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that we are announcing a new initiative from the Elizabeth Public Schools, the Most Valuable Parent (MVP), to publicly honor an Elizabeth Public School Parent whose actions, including contributions to the school community, symbolize the finest traditions of parenting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she would like to take this moment to focus attention on the unique contribution of our professional school counselors within the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our guidance counselors provide a tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as a result of the efforts of our Board President in coordination with Edison Berrio, guidance counselor at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, we are proud to make our inaugural announcement of this prestigious recognition to highlight the efforts of successful parents in education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that much like the recognition that is provided to honor athletes in their individual performance in a championship, our school district has undertaken the recognition in what is probably the greatest competition of all, the education of our children. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the nomination criteria includes the individual must be a parent, natural, adoptive, foster, guardian, or step-parent and their child has to have demonstrated progress in their performance; students must demonstrate 95% attendance rate (with the exception of unexcused absences); parents/guardians are active members of the PTA/PTO; parents/guardians attend Parent Teacher Conferences; parents/guardians attend District Information Sessions, i.e. Parent Academy, Parent Seminars, College Fair; and parents/guardians volunteer/participate in school events such as Read Across America, fundraisers, serve as chaperones, etc. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents selected would have to meet four of the six criteria items.

Board President Amin introduced Edison Berrio to speak about public service.

Edison Berrio, Guidance Counselor at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, stated what a privilege it is for the school counselors, social workers, and teachers who are the front line of what we do in education.

Mrs. Amin stated that the inaugural Most Valuable Parent Award is presented to Fausto Gordillo, Maria Gonzalez, Enzo Favale, and Silvana Maier, parents of students at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized students who participated in the Young Engineer Day at Rutgers University School of Engineering including fourth grade students from Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 Zaire Carter, Darlene Castellanos, Britney Chelot, Eliezer Franco, Mia Gomez, Amirah Harris, I'nasiah Harvey, Jalyynn Luciano, Helen Mainato, Jonathan Matos, Denise Mejia, Rachel Meneses-Almonte, Arianna Ortega, Julio Padilla, Miguel Echevarri, Melanie Perez, Arianna Porquin, Fabio Tamay, Aracelis Velez, Nicole Viojo, and Emmanuel

Vargas; sixth grade students from George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 Daniel Bido, Wilfredo Camacho, Haylin Flores, Christian Franco, Shanice Massey, Stephanie Meza, and Phoenix Ortiz; seventh grade students from George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 John Garner, Diamond Lowney, Mauricio Martinez, Justin Sanchez, Marcia Silva, and Rosa Vasquez-Martinez; and eighth grade students from George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 Tarius Blount, Kiara Herrera, and Quintaya McRae. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Perreira stated that the Achievement Coaches Program was created to strengthen the understanding of the State's key education initiatives and enable a number of outstanding educators to have a broader impact. Mr. Perreira recognized Monica Martinez, Supervisor of Innovative Programming, and Lourdes Couto, Staff Development Coordinator, for having prepared a successful competitive grant application. Mr. Perreira stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is one of three districts that will work with the New Jersey Department of Education to create professional development sessions to support teaching methods, standards alignment, and evidence-based decision making. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated Monica Martinez and Lourdes Couto and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized the following students from the Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team who competed at the Harvard Debate National Tournament and finished in the Top 25 in the Nation out of hundreds of teams that competed from all over the nation in their respective categories including eleventh grade students Ariel Aguilar and John Paipilla and twelfth grade students Juan Agudelo and Alsha'Quan Lomax, Top 25 in the Nation in Duo Interpretation; and John Paipilla, eleventh grade, Top 25 in the Nation in Humorous Interpretation. Mr. Trujillo recognized coaches Renee Drummond and Brian Rodriguez for their hard work and dedication in working with these students. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the students and coaches and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Coach Renee Drummond thanked everyone for their endless support and commented that these students are Number One in the nation in her heart, in the community, and in our schools.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized Marcos Zaveleta, tenth grade student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and his Team Light Blue who won the second annual competition to develop a county-wide community service initiative to foster leadership, responsibility, and community service among the youth. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members presented a certificate of commemoration to Principal Christopher Van Vliet who accepted on behalf of Marcos Zaveleta.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 for receiving authorization to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program after receiving authorization five months ago to offer the Primary Years Program. Ms. Bathelus stated that Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 is the only International Baccalaureate World School in the State of New Jersey to offer both programs. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated the entire school community for this honor and presented Principal Howard Teitelbaum, Vice Principal Maria Guiducci, and staff members with a plaque of commemoration and a banner for the school.

Principal Howard Teitelbaum thanked everyone and stated that it has been close to eight years for the culmination of this honor. Mr. Teitelbaum stated that in August they received notification about the Primary Years Program and again in January they received notification about the Middle Years Program. Mr. Teitelbaum stated that Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 is the only authorized school in New Jersey for the International Baccalaureate Primary and Middle Years Program. Mr. Teitelbaum introduced David Reeseg who is the

Primary Years Program Coordinator. Mr. Teitelbaum thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer for her support and encouragement.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 that was selected by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development as a 2015 New Jersey School of Character for building and sustaining the school's character education initiative. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina congratulated the Character Education Committee Members including Chairperson Elizabeth McLaughlin, Pamela Eduardo, Cassandra Pestana, Julissa Urena, Giorgina Bialous, Tracy Sereday, Donna Walker, Michael Munoz, Zulay Aponte, Denise Renda, Nancy Georgette, Joan Tomek, and Sulisnet Jimenez. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron stated that the 100% Club is for schools that have reached 100% of their improvement targets based on the State's Performance Reports. Mr. Neron stated that the variables used to measure are student performance on the NJ ASK test, number of students taking Algebra courses, number of student absences, participation in Advanced Placement courses, the PSAT, and the SAT. Mr. Neron stated that the variables used depend on the student grade levels.

Mr. Neron recognized schools in the 100% Club for Student Growth including George Washington Academy for Science and Engineering School No. 1, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Joseph Battin School No. 4, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, iLeap Academy School No. 8, Elmora School No. 12, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14, Christopher Columbus School No. 15, Madison-Monroe School No. 16, Robert Morris School No. 18, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19, John Marshall School No. 20, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Perreira recognized schools in the 100% Club for Academic Achievement including Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, Elizabeth High School, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez recognized schools in the 100% Club for College and Career Readiness including Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for Graduation and Post-Secondary including Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and Elizabeth High School. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for K-8 Schools Academic Achievement Growth Peer Percentile including Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14, Robert Morris School No. 18, John Marshall School No. 20, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for K-8 Schools Academic Achievement Growth State Percentile including Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, John Marshall School No. 20, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, and Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 for being in the 100% Club for K-8 Schools College and Career Growth Peer Percentile. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 and presented the vice principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for K-8 Schools College and Career Growth State Percentile including Joseph Battin School No. 4, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, Elmora School No. 12, Christopher Columbus School No. 15, and Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for K-8 Schools Student Growth Peer Percentile including Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Joseph Battin School No. 4, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, Elmora School No. 12, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, John Marshall School No. 20, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28, and Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for K-8 Schools Student Growth State Percentile including Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Joseph Battin School No. 4, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, Elmora School No. 12, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, Christopher Columbus School No. 15, John Marshall School No. 20, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for High Schools Academic Achievement Growth Peer Percentile including Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and Elizabeth High School. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

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Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for High Schools College and Career Growth Peer Percentile including Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, Elizabeth High School, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized schools in the 100% Club for High Schools College and Career Growth State Percentile including Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, Elizabeth High School, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy for being in the 100% Club for High Schools Graduation and Post-Secondary Growth Peer Percentile. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the school and presented the principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized the schools for being in the 100% Club for High Schools Graduation and Post-Secondary Growth State Percentile including Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the schools and presented each principal with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the New Jersey Department of Education recently released the School Performance Reports for the 2013-2014 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the School Performance Reports provide snapshots of performance indicators that provide insight into academic achievement as measured by statewide assessments, metrics of student growth, and whether students are on track for success in college and career. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the schools are ranked among peer and state ranked groups in specific categories as well as the 100% Club which recognizes that schools have met 100% of their progress targets in the measured categories. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the peer school comparison data provides insight into school performance by comparing schools to approximately 30 other schools that have similar grade configurations and students with similar demographic characteristics such as limited English proficiency, eligibility for free or reduced lunch, or participation in special education programming.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the School Performance Reports include data that fall into three major categories including Academic Achievement (elementary, middle, and high school), College and Career Readiness (elementary, middle, and high school), and Student Growth (elementary and middle) or Graduation and Post-Secondary (high school). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all schools statewide are then ranked against the schools in their Peer Comparison Groups as well as ranked against all schools in the State of New Jersey.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Academic Achievement measures the content knowledge students have in language arts literacy and math as demonstrated by proficiency on the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) in grades 3-8 and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in grade 11.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the College and Career Readiness measures the degree to which students are demonstrating behaviors indicative of future attendance and/or success in college and careers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for all elementary and middle schools this includes a measurement of how many students are chronically absent, for schools with middle school grades this also includes a measurement of how many students take Algebra I in either seventh or eighth grade. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for high schools this includes a measurement of participation in the PSAT and SAT and in rigorous coursework as defined by participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English, math, social studies, and science.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Student Growth measures the performance of students from one year to the next on the NJ ASK in language arts and math when compared to students with a similar history of performance on the NJ ASK.

Mrs. Amin thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for the informative explanation of the School Performance Reports.

Mr. Monteiro recognized the following educators for being named the Governor's Educator of the Year for 2015 for educational innovation, student achievement, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success including Maria Lugo, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50; Dania Jaquez-Zurita, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51; Maritza Trujillo, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 52; Alison Mednick, George Washington Academy for Science and Engineering School No. 1, Schiller Ambroise, Winfield Scott School No. 2; Geraldine Calhoun, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Ines Pontoriero, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Lauren Casso Gonzalez, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; Lance Grahl, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Tammy Roshell Jones, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Marvelis Perreira, iLeap Academy School No. 8; Nicole Pepe, Jerome Dunn Academy for Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9; Stephen Marotta, Elmora School No. 12; Mary Ann Davies, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Karen Sasso, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Sonya Ameli, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Dr. Ana Serra, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; Tequila Stuckey, Robert Morris School No. 18; Jennifer Yanni, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Brenda McClinton, John Marshall School No. 20; Faith Palamar, Victor Mravlag School No. 21; Rosaria Smeraglia, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31; Michelle Zuber, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23; Dina Faria, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25; Jia-Huei Hu, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Mary Dillon, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; Alexander Anichtchenko, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; Kate DiFonzo, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Colleen Perez, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30; Sohair Abdel-Hadi, Elizabeth High School; Thomas Fischer, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; Gennaro R. DeFrancesco, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy; Olayinka Akinsuyi, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy; Donald Conner, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; and Michelle Rodriguez, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized Anna Jacobs, Physics and Chemistry Teacher at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy for being named a 2015 Honorary Board of Educators by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists for her work with outstanding students in staying true to their dreams and encouraging them to pursue medical, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers to fill the shortage of professionals in these fields in this country. Mrs. Carvalho recognized the twelfth grade students for their pursuit of careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) including Abigail Agyapong, Jean Cabral-Espinal, Catherin Canario, Amber Dunbar, and Andrea Mora. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated Anna Jacobs and the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Board President Amin presented the following public participation statement.

"At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. 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. Amin called upon the first public participant, Jeri Goodman, to address the Board.

Jeri Goodman, 128 Halsted Road, PTO President, spoke about the lack of communication of a refusal letter for PARCC.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Rosa Moreno, to address the Board.

Rosa Moreno, 17 Clover Street, stated that there are too many tests and they should remove midterms and finals. Ms. Moreno stated that it is too late for the public speaking.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Angela Bergen, to address the Board.

Angela Bergen, 1052 Coolidge Road, spoke about PARCC.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called three times upon the next public participant, Maria Orca, who did not come forward. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special education issues.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Angelique Escalera, to address the Board.

Angelique Escalera, student, stated she is a student in the Elizabeth Public Schools who faces challenges every day but has the determination and willingness not to become a product of her environment and her greatest desire is to graduate high school and serve her country. Ms. Escalera stated that she was honored to attend the swearing-in ceremony but did not understand what happened after the swear-in with the anger and fury demonstrated publicly by adults.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Mauro Morillo, to address the Board.

Mauro Morillo, 321 Westfield Avenue, stated that his son attends School No. 21 and they are happy with the school and he is learning a lot. Mr. Morillo thanked the teachers and the Board and stated that the Board should keep up the good work.

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

Mr. Rodriguez stated that a couple of people tonight were talking about PARCC and there is a lot of stress and anxiety about it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it begins next week all over the State of New Jersey. Mr. Rodriguez stated that tonight we are reviewing a policy about state testing and he can assure you that we will have a conversation about an opt-out policy and what we can do about that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that a few months ago he made a motion, and the resolution passed unanimously, to send a letter to the NJ DOE asking to delay the exam for one year. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are not the only board of education that sent a letter to the NJDOE and sadly there was no response from them. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we tried, we knew it probably wasn't going to make much difference but sometimes it is worth the attempt. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are going to be talking about the PARCC exam tonight.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that another concern is midterms, other exams, and finals. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he scheduled a meeting with the Superintendent for tomorrow and they are going to be talking about exams, the use, the not use, should we do something different and where we can move on from there. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the conversation will start and he can't promise it will go one way or the other. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is something that we just can't up and change the whole thing and if we do anything it will be step by step. Mr. Rodriguez stated that personally he feels there are too many exams, some are worth it but there are too many. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is an old saying that you can't fatten a pig by weighing it



all the time. Mr. Rodriguez stated that they can't really educate children if they are testing all the time. Mr. Rodriguez stated that most of his colleagues and teachers agree with that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there are uses for exams and assessments and asked at what point is it too much or too little. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he doesn't know if his colleagues will agree but they will have a conversation about it.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to table the minutes of the meetings of January 6, 7, and 14, 2015.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of December 2014

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the teacher promotions.

Mr. Neron stated that there are teachers moving to guidance counselors.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the movement of teachers to guidance counselors.

Mrs. Amin stated that the principal at School No. 29 is leaving.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resignation letter was received and explained the replacement process.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if you can appoint prior to April 13.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that you cannot have two principals at the same time.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the Supervisor of Music for Bilingual/ESL.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the Director of Bilingual and ESL Education oversees the Supervisor of Music and it is part of the organization chart.

Mr. Trujillo congratulated the retirees including Linda Fletcher with 27 years of service, Marcia Gincel with 30 years of service, Caroline Parker with 24 years of service, Lourdes Sampedro with 30 years of service, Dale Valenti with 13 years of service, Edward Dippolito with 31 years of service, Dignora Gonzalez with 12 years of service, and Isavel Recio with 15 years of service. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are public servants and wished them the best and thanked them for their years of service.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Personnel Report – Change of Account Numbers

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended except with a waiver of all fees for the requests from A Helping Hand, Merlin Soccer Club, Prevention Links, and Elmora School No. 12 PTA.

Mrs. Amin asked if the schools have any activities on these dates.

Mr. Kennedy explained the procedure for the use of facilities.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Elizabeth Youth Soccer), Castillo-Ospina (abstain- Merlin Soccer Club, Elizabeth Youth Soccer), Messrs. Monteiro, Neron (abstain- Prevention Links), Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Perreira to table the report.

The motion to table the report was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that her report includes highlights from InsideEPS beginning with the article *EPS Recognized in National Publication*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that funded by a \$3 million Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the Department of Education, Elizabeth Public Schools will expand its use of the Teach to One: Math model from two to seven schools next year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the idea behind Teach to One started in 2009 with School of One, a middle school math program which personalizes curricula and lesson plans for individual students in three New York City schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2011 its founder Joel Rose started a non-profit New Classrooms to spread the idea of School of One to other districts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that New Classrooms has since implemented Teach to One: Math, the model used at School of One, at 15 schools in nine districts, serving 6,000 students nationwide. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students spend the math period working on the particular skills they need to develop, in a learning style that works well for them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer quote Joel Rose, "You might spend the first 30 minutes working on factoring binomials with Mr. Smith, and the next 30 minutes working on that same skill using software at a different station." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the end of the class all students take a ten-minute online assessment of what they've learned and New Classrooms then analyzes that data to create a custom schedule for the next day's math period for each student, taking into account which stations a student worked at. Mrs. Hugelmeyer quoted Joel Rose, "If you don't do well on the assessment, the next day you'll typically be taught the same skill but in a different way." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the data is encouraging and according to New Classrooms, students on average made 1.5 years of progress in math in the 2013-2014 school year, 47% more than the national average. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that updated results will be available soon and the \$3 million i3 grant will also support a three-year study of Teach to One's impact conducted by Columbia University's Teachers College. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that after success at iPrep Academy the Teach to One model was implemented at Jerome Dunn Academy to 152 students in the middle of the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that after positive results at both middle schools the Teach to One will be implemented at five additional middle schools in the 2015-2016 school year to a total of about 1,250 students and after the expansion 25% of K-8 schools in Elizabeth will use Teach to One.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Selected to Receive New Grant*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that earlier this evening we recognized Monica Martinez, Supervisor of Innovative Programming, and Lourdes Couto, Staff Development Coordinator, for having prepared a successful competitive grant application for the Achievement Coaches Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is one of three districts that will work with the State of New Jersey Department of Education to create professional development sessions to support teaching methods, standards alignment, and evidence-based decision-making. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this valuable professional development will be offered to sixteen districts that will each send groups of Achievement Coaches to a summer session to prepare to deliver the training to peers across the State. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are incredibly proud of our talented team members that have afforded our district the opportunity to serve all of the districts in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer quoted Education Commissioner David C. Hespe, "I am very pleased that we can honor the outstanding work and leadership evident in so many districts through this opportunity. We are counting on these new Achievement Coaches to share their knowledge and expertise both with our team at the Department and with other educators."

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *George Washington Academy Proposed Partnership with NJIT*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our school district announced at the beginning of the school year the innovations projected for our two new themed academies, The George Washington Academy for Science and Engineering School No. 1 and the Jerome Dunn Academy for Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that recently we engaged with conversations with our administrators and we are pleased to share the progress made thus far. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the current discussions with the professors at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) include the establishment of a LEGO robotics course for fourth to eighth grade students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this would involve a

weekly visitation to selected classes by an NJIT upper-class undergraduate or graduate student who would collaborate with the classroom teacher to provide the students with learning experiences in LEGO robotics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the goal of this program is to build the capacity of our elementary and middle school teachers in order to ensure that they are able to continue providing these robotics learning experiences to students in their classes without the graduate student. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this service will provide classroom lessons and experiences in robotics where the teacher, school, or district may translate the lessons into a course for fourth to eighth grade students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there is no cost to the school or district for the NJIT student's time and the district's commitment will be for all materials including the robotic kits and associated supplemental materials needed for the implementation of the lessons. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the implementation service will begin in the Fall 2015. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that further support from NJIT will include providing professional development on the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with applications to robotics for up to 15 teachers beginning in the months of May and June of this school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that another exciting opportunity for our students is the acceptance of up to three or four students for the 2015 ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Residential Camp held on the campus of NJIT and there is no cost involved for this program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we look forward to finalizing the details of this partnership agreement to begin implementation in the Spring 2015.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *Jerome Dunn Academy Teach to One Launch*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer Joel Rose, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of New Classrooms, Inc. recently communicated with regard to the commitment to personalized learning in Elizabeth and he stated, "While so many others actually talk about it, you all are actually doing it. And in doing so, you are setting a national example for how a large, urban district can develop true partnerships to bring personalized learning to a particular community." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we proudly launched this past month a mid-year implementation of the Teach to One model at the Jerome Dunn Academy for Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the folks at New Classrooms commented on the high level of implementation that they experienced as a result of the leadership of the administration and the enthusiasm and motivation of the teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that New Classrooms provided our team members with professional development during the month of January and worked with our Central Office to ensure success on the various logistics of this new and exciting initiative. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we recently conducted a walkthrough with the New Jersey Department of Education and experienced a high level of engagement on the part of Jerome Dunn Academy for Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the folks from the State Department were amazed that the implementation had only occurred in the past two weeks. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we congratulate our team members at the Jerome Dunn Academy for Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 and our team members at Central Office for their commitment to equity, expectations, and excellence.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last article is *Student Performance Reports Have Been Released by the New Jersey Department of Education*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools rankings were announced and the Department of Education ranks schools throughout the State of New Jersey according to these categories, very high performance, high performance, average performance, lagging performance, and significantly lagging performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when ranked amongst schools in its peer group 77% of all EPS have average, high, or very high performance in academic achievement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when ranked amongst schools in its peer group 88% of all EPS have average, high, or very high performance in college and career readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when ranked amongst schools in the State 91% of all EPS have average to very high performance in college and career readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when ranked amongst schools in its peer group 68% of EPS grades 3-8 schools have average, high, or very high performance in student growth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that offering Algebra in the eighth grade and a focus on increasing proficiency in Language Arts and Math have helped to provide Elizabeth Public Schools an opportunity to lead amongst its peers while it also performs well within statewide categories for various schools

and categories. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools will work diligently to improve performance across all categories so that every child achieves excellence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 26 schools are either very high performing, high performing, or at or above average for peer ranked academic achievement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 30 schools are either very high performing, high performing, or at or above average for peer ranked college and career readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 19 schools are either very high performing, high performing, or at or above average for peer ranked student growth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 8 schools are either very high performing, high performing, or at or above average for state ranked academic achievement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 31 schools are either very high performing, high performing, or at or above average for state ranked college and career readiness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 12 schools are either very high performing, high performing, or at or above average for state ranked student growth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that two high schools are peer ranked and state ranked for high school graduation and post-secondary. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that earlier this evening we honored the schools that have reached 100% of their targets and are in the 100% Club. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this concludes the InsideEPS report.

Mrs. Amin thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for her informative report.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Amendment, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez asked about the lawyer present when we have in-house counsel. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the taxpayers are paying his bill. Mr. Rodriguez asked for an introduction.

Bruce Rosen, Esq., McCusker, Anselmi, Rosen, Carvelli, apologized and commented that he introduced himself to everyone else. Mr. Rosen introduced himself to Mr. Rodriguez.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was registering his protest to the law firm of Garrubbo Capece, P.C. and stated that a principal partner is under indictment for being part of the lunch scandal for stealing lunches from the school children. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is registering his strong displeasure for still having this law firm collecting our taxpayer money while being indicted for stealing or at least helping to take taxpayer money.

Mr. Lehman explained that this is for an old bill from over a year ago that was inadvertently misplaced and is just being paid now. Mr. Lehman stated that he has no work from the Board at this time.

Mr. Neron asked if that law firm is currently a Board of Education approved law firm.

Mr. Lehman responded that it is an approved law firm but has no work at this time.

Mr. Neron asked if it was approved at this reorganization meeting even though he has been indicted.

Mr. Lehman responded yes.

Mr. Neron asked why we would do that.

Mr. Lehman stated that he is a practicing attorney and there has been no action taken by the Bar Association.

Mr. Neron stated that if someone is indicted we typically have them resign.

Mr. Lehman stated that is for employees and he is not an employee.

Mr. Neron stated that he doesn't see the difference between an employee and a consultant.

Mr. Lehman stated that we can discuss this further in private.

Mr. Neron made a motion to table the report.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table the report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Award of Contracts Report

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

Mrs. Amin requested to table USA Architects until further review.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Monteiro, to table USA Architects.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the contract with Major Associates.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is for the renewal of the warehouse lease.

Mrs. Carvalho asked what is stored there.

Mr. Lehman explained.

Ms. Bathelus stated that Kaseem Greene is coming to School No. 5 and thanked the Board for making it happen.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there is a motion and a second for the Awards of Contracts Report without USA Architects.

The amended motion was carried by the following vote (with the exception of USA Architects which was tabled):

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Amin – 2

Negative: None

#### Miscellaneous Communication

None.

#### Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Monteiro, to table the report.

The motion to table the report was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro excused himself from the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Mr. Perreira excused himself from the meeting at 10:51 p.m.

#### Resolution – Music in Our Schools Month

Mrs. Carvalho read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Perreira returned to the meeting at 10:52 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez excused himself from the meeting at 10:52 p.m.

#### Resolution – National School Social Workers' Week

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez returned to the meeting at 10:58 p.m.

Resolution – Read Across America

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Perreira stated that ever since he has been a member of the Board of Education this is by far the one week that he donates a lot of time and it is a worthy cause. Mr. Perreira stated that the students are happy to see individuals, outside of their day to day teachers and administrators at the school level, who come in to read and take part in their educational activities. Mr. Perreira stated that we do want them to understand that reading is very important. Mr. Perreira stated that it is a great opportunity and if you are a member of the community to please take part in your school's activities and he promises that you will enjoy it.

Mr. Trujillo commented that is exactly what he was going to say. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is just great and he encourages all of his colleagues to pick a school, take a classroom and read to the students. Mr. Trujillo stated that the students will get a lot out of it and they will enjoy it. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is one of the nicest things we do here.

Mr. Neron stated that he is definitely excited about going back to the classrooms again this year. Mr. Neron stated that last year he did it on his birthday and had a good time with the kids who wanted to know why he was celebrating his birthday like this. Mr. Neron stated that he is looking forward to going back to read at the schools. Mr. Neron encouraged all professionals, community members, and parents to get engaged and read to the students. Mr. Neron stated that the students will have a lot of questions and will engage and it is definitely worth their while.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he actually read to the students today and actually read to the same students that he read to last year. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the students really do love it and he had the opportunity to read to them in Spanish and it was great.

Resolution – St. Joseph's Day

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he had the pleasure and honor of living part of his life in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Italian heritage is still well-celebrated here in the City of Elizabeth and the community isn't as large as it once was but it is a great place to visit. Mr. Trujillo stated that the culture is very much alive and encourages everyone to embrace it and to take a ride to some of the eateries there and you will get the sense of what Peterstown is and it is alive and well.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is a big holiday for Italian Americans but also a big day for Hispanics and Latinos to celebrate St. Joseph's Day.



The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

#### Resolution – St. Patrick’s Day

Mrs. Carvalho read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Women’s History Month

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Youth Art Month

Mr. Neron read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Neron commended the Superintendent for allowing the wonderful partnership that we have had through our youth division at the City to be able to work with Jefferson Arts Academy to provide the Elizabeth Youth Theater Ensemble. Mr. Neron stated that they have been doing a wonderful job since the inception of that program and they actually were able to participate in a panel discussion with HBO and will be doing a finale of their short films and PSAs during the month of March. Mr. Neron stated that it is a wonderful partnership and thanked the Superintendent for allowing their partnership to continue and expand the youth art in the City.

#### Resolution – National School Breakfast Week

Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

#### Resolution – National Nutrition Month

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that for a lot of our students our district provides two meals and sometimes that is their only meal of the day.

#### Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 7

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that state law does cap the amount but most of these were grandfathered and the past payments have to be made.

#### Resolution – Contract for Professional Services – Education Law Center

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Ms. Bathelus asked for an explanation and where did we get these funds if we don't have any money.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is in the budget each year as part of our legal expenses. Mr. Kennedy stated that we have historically contributed to the Law Center because they have supported us, as an SDA district, in our ability to obtain special funding from the State of New Jersey. Mr. Kennedy stated that this is a resolution that contributes \$1.00 per student in our district.

Ms. Bathelus asked if it is a donation.

Mr. Lehman stated that the Education Law Center is a non-profit organization that represents Abbott school districts around the State of New Jersey in litigation with the State of New Jersey trying to protect the rights of the Abbott districts. Mr. Lehman stated that it is because of the Education Law Center that this district and other Abbott districts have received as much funding as they have over the last twenty years. Mr. Lehman stated that this is a small contribution for the return that the school district has gotten over the years.

Mr. Neron stated that last year we had a discussion about the Law Center and asked if Mr. Lehman met with them since last year.

Mr. Lehman responded no.

Mr. Neron asked if he could set something up so we can be abreast of what they are working on and we can apprise the public of where we are as an urban school district.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo requested a copy of this resolution be sent to the City Clerk to disseminate among City Council requesting matching the Elizabeth Board of Education contribution. Mr. Trujillo stated that apart from us sending a contribution it would be great if it were doubled with a contribution from the City. Mr. Trujillo stated that over the years they have an excellent job. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has met with them and fortunately there has not been as many hot topics in Trenton right now for them as we are no longer Abbots. Mr. Trujillo stated that they still do a lot of great work and he is sure that they will be able to defend themselves when they come here and tell you what they do. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has had great experiences with them and that they have been a friend to the Elizabeth Public Schools over the years.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Education Law Center is currently working with us to restore funding from the State for our Early Childhood Program.

Mr. Trujillo stated that as Mr. Neron said it would be great to have them come here.

Ms. Bathelus asked if No. 3 was on it when it was approved last year.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes.

Mr. Monteiro returned to the meeting at 11:21 p.m.

Resolution – Support of Bill S-1279 / AA-2325 Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would like to introduce a resolution.

Mrs. Amin stated that since the resolution is not in the agenda she cannot recognize it. Mrs. Amin stated that a resolution has to be submitted prior in order for it to be in the agenda.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that in the agenda he saw that there is no new business and asked if there will be new business at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Amin responded yes.

Mr. Monteiro stated that next week is Reading Across America and Mr. Perreira and he are planning to visit many schools. Mr. Monteiro asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer if they need to schedule that with her office.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it would be beneficial if her office coordinated the schedules and will help to keep a record with the participation in the schools and to communicate with the principals especially since testing begins next week and they could coordinate which classrooms would be less impacted.

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, P.W.,

E.H., and C.S.; Revised Policies and Regulations; Vendor Contracts, specifically Lease Renewals Archdiocese of Newark and substitute services; Corrective Action Plan – Audit; Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results, and Workers’ Compensation Claims, specifically M.B., K.B., L.G., G.D., F.E., A.L., T.M., and J.R. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to go into private session at 11:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

The Board reconvened in public at 2:45 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the minutes of the meetings of January 6, 7, and 14, 2015 be taken off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the Supplemental Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities be taken off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Supplemental Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved as recommended and to amend the facilities usage forms.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers be taken off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

#### Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote (except for Insurance Consulting Associates; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; and Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs. which did not receive the required number of votes):

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- AG&L; B.B. Miller & Co.; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel &

Werbel, Esqs.; Nuenergen, LLC; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- AG&L; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (abstain- B.B. Miller & Co.; Chiarello, Robin Taylor; Elizabethport Presbyterian Center; Insurance Consulting Associates; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; USA Architects), Neron (negative- AG&L; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the Claims List be taken off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote (except for Insurance Consulting Associates; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; and Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs. which did not receive the required number of votes):

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- AG&L; B.B. Miller & Co.; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; Nuenergen, LLC; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- AG&L; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (abstain- B.B. Miller & Co.; Chiarello, Robin Taylor; Elizabethport Presbyterian Center; Insurance Consulting Associates; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; USA Architects), Neron (negative- AG&L; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Perreira (abstain- Candelario Trujillo), Rodriguez (negative- AG&L; Garrubbo Capece, P.C.; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Insurance Consulting Associates; Jasinski; Lenox, Socey, Formidoni, Giordano, Cooley, Lang & Casey; Machado Law Group, LLC; Methfessel & Werbel, Esqs.; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the Awards of Contracts Report - USA Architects be taken off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Award of Contracts Report – USA Architects

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the contracts for USA Architect be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the minutes of the meetings of January 6, 7, and 14, 2015 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (abstain- January 6, 7, 2015), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron (negative- January 6, 7, 2015), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- January 6, 7, 2015), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

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

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Authorization to Accept the Corrective Action Plan Responses – Financial Statement Audit for 2013-2014

The Corrective Action Plan inclusive of audit recommendations, comments and actions to be implemented was read and reviewed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Mmes. Carvalho, Amin – 2

Negative: None

#### Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – P.W.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Termination effective January 20, 2015 – C.S.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Paid Administration Leave effective February 13, 2015 – E.H.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Lease Renewals – Archdiocese of Newark

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she would like to see the contracts to see what we are responsible for and what the Archdiocese is responsible for.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro stated that this will save the district \$450,000. over the next five years.

Resolution – Substitute Staffing Services – Source4Teachers

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Carvalho asked which legal counsel will be doing that.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he will be working with Mr. Lehman.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that we will not be paying outside for this.

Mr. Kennedy responded that Mr. Lehman reviews all contracts for the district.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 5

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 4

The first reading of the following new and revised policies, regulation, and exhibit was done:

1000/1010	Policy	Concepts and Roles in Community Relations: Goals and Objectives
1221	Policy	Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
1221	Regulation	Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
1312	Policy	Constituent Service
5141.8	Policy	Sports Related Concussion and Head Injury
5141.8	Exhibit	Sports Related Concussion and Head Injury
6114	Policy	Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

6147.3	Policy	Student Assessment
6173	Policy	Home Instruction
7110	Policy	Long Range Facilities Planning

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the student assessment policy includes PARCC and we did have a lengthy conversation on PARCC. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it was explained why exactly we could not write down an opt-out policy which is what some members wanted from the public. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we always make ourselves available and we hope you would reach out to us. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Superintendent and Amy Gil are going to provide us with the state statute showing that a lot of times we are handcuffed by what we can and cannot do. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he wished we could do what is best for the students in terms of what the two parents were talking about and we do understand the awkwardness for the student to have to deny or refuse a test but there are certain rules and regulations that we have to follow. Mr. Rodriguez stated that parents can reach out to them and they can explain.

Mr. Neron stated that we have had several conversations in private amongst the board and with the Superintendent in regard to the rules and regulations mandated by the state with regard to PARCC regardless of the reservations that they have including himself. Mr. Neron stated that he personally does not agree that we should be issuing PARCC this year with a lot of reservations that parents have. Mr. Neron stated that he has received a lot of calls and consulted with a lot of parents. Mr. Neron stated that the Superintendent has assured us that it will not affect the students' status in school nor will it affect any grades or promotions and we just wanted to make sure that is the case. Mr. Neron stated that he wanted it on record that we have brought it to the Superintendent and we have had many conversations about it. Mr. Neron stated that they even reviewed a letter from the U.S. Department of Education which was addressed to the NJ Department of Education stating the ramifications of testing and the need to test. Mr. Neron stated that tests do not teach however this is the system that we are in. Mr. Neron encouraged parents, the community, and lobbyists to advocate for change on a national level to see if we can get some of these things addressed and see that the needs of our students are met and we stop teaching to tests. Mr. Neron stated teachers are extremely stressed about it that they not only have to issue SDOs, benchmarks, midterm exams and now they have to prepare for PARCC. Mr. Neron stated that it is very important that we encourage our school leadership to motivate our students, to motivate our staff, and to work with them as a community and answer all the questions that the parents have to make them feel comfortable. Mr. Neron stated that if our school leadership is talking to our parents and they understand the process it can really lessen the level of stress. Mr. Neron stated that parents will have the right to do what they feel is just.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he feels, like many Board members, that we have a lot of reservations. Mr. Monteiro stated that he received two phone calls from parents and referred them to the Superintendent and Director Amy Gil's office. Mr. Monteiro thanked the Superintendent, her staff, and administrators who have handled each one of those calls respectfully and with a great deal of sensitivity and this is the way we are handling this matter going forward. Mr. Monteiro stated thanked the staff and administrators and stated that there is a great deal of concern about this.

Mr. Neron stated that to clarify that Mr. Monteiro received two calls and that we have all received calls. Mr. Neron stated that he wanted to be sure that everyone know that it is not just two calls.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the district has been very proactive and the Superintendent put together a series of town hall meetings to meet the parents. Mr. Monteiro stated that he did a television segment on the President's Forum with Director Amy Gil and the district is being very proactive with regard to the testing.



Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Violence and Vandalism for the period starting September 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in January 2002 the New Jersey Legislature enacted laws concerning violence and vandalism and in accordance with these laws all New Jersey public school districts must designate the week beginning with the third Monday in October as School Violence Awareness Week. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that during School Violence Awareness Week, school districts are expected to organize activities including, but not limited to, inviting law enforcement officials to join members of the teaching staff in discussions to prevent school violence and provide age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution was put before the Board on September 18, 2014 declaring the week of October 20-24, 2014, School Violence Awareness Week and each of our schools submit a plan each year to the Office of the Assistant Superintendent that outlines the activities and programs that will be conducted during School Violence Awareness Week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 two times each year, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of violence and vandalism which occurred in the public schools during the previous reporting period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Violence and Vandalism report is divided into five categories including counts of incidents by reporting category, cost of vandalism, actions taken, offenders and victims, and program provided upon disciplinary action. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that during the reporting period between September 1 and December 31, 2014 there were 29 incidents of violence and 37 harassment, intimidation, and bullying incidents, there were 0 acts of vandalism that includes fire alarm pulls, there were 9 incidents that involved weapons, and there were 21 cases of substance abuse. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that total cost involved in incidents is no longer reported. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the police were notified 10 times with no complaint taken, 19 times with a complaint filed, there were 2 expulsions, there were 79 out-of-school suspensions, and 35 other discipline actions which include parent conferences, counseling, and detention. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the incidents involved the following offenders, 82 general education students, 24 students with a disability, 0 students from another district, 1 non-student incident, and 1 unknown. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the incidents involved the following victims, 33 general education students, 18 students with a disability, 0 students from other districts, 0 incidents involving non-students, 17 incidents involving school personnel, and there were 2 victims of violent criminal offenses. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that under the new category, program provided upon disciplinary action, assignments, instruction and/or support services were given to 35 students, an in-district program provided for 0 students, home instruction given to 25 students, and 3 students placed in out-of-district program.

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

Mrs. Amin thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for the report. Mrs. Amin asked if there was any old business to discuss.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the special committees, Anti-Bullying Task Force Committee, High School Drop Out Task Force Committee, Special Education Issues and Funding Committee, and Technology Task Force Committee, need reauthorization to begin and continue on with the same objectives and processes through Reorganization 2016.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to approve the special committees with the same objectives to be in effect through the Reorganization Meeting 2016.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Amin stated that the names of the committee members would be provided next week.

Mr. Neron asked if we are not approving the committees as is and if she is changing the committees.

Mrs. Amin stated that her determination is to change the committees.

Mrs. Amin asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his understanding at the moment is that we do not have an auditor and insurance agent for the district. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the vote was 4-4 and one abstention.

Mr. Lehman responded that he does not believe that is correct.

Ms. Bathelus stated that normally we start the meeting after 7:30 p.m. or later and asked if we can try to start closer to 7:00 p.m. and asked if everyone could commit to being here at 6:55 p.m.

Mr. Lehman responded to Mr. Rodriguez, that given the hour, he requested to speak about it at the next meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the vote on the auditor and was 4 in favor and 4 opposed, and Mr. Monteiro abstained.

Mr. Lehman stated that the motion did not carry but the policy states if the motion does not carry then the existing contract is renewed for one year.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the policy was for legal services only.

Mr. Lehman stated that he believes it is for professional services. Mr. Lehman stated that because of the late hour he can respond within a week.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that at one of the past meetings the Board approved Garrubbo & Capece law firm as one of the special counsel attorneys for the Board of Education. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is making a motion to remove Garrubbo & Capece law firm from the list of outside law firms because Mr. Capece is under indictment for his alleged involvement in the lunch school scandal. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he thinks it is inappropriate for us as a Board of Education to use tax dollars to pay an attorney who is indicted for allegedly helping to steal tax dollars.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez to remove Garrubbo & Capece law firm from the list of special counsel.

Mrs. Amin stated that we have committees and it should be referred to the Legal Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table the removal of Garrubbo & Capece.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 5

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 4

Mr. Rodriguez stated that when the discussion comes he wants to be part of the conversation.

On a motion by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

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