

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

February 4, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on February 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., in the Mitchell Building, 500 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves presented the following statement at 6:10 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a special 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 January 28, 2019. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present to this February 4, 2019 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 morning 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 may sign in up to the 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: Mrs. Barbosa (arr. 6:35 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (arr. 7:30 p.m.), Miss Goncalves – 9
Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Stephanie Goncalves presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Miss Goncalves called upon the first public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, spoke about the Amistad curriculum.

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

Kason Little, student, spoke about the Amistad curriculum.

Miss Goncalves thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other citizens to address the board, Miss Goncalves declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel/recruitment policies. The Board will reconvene in public.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to go into private session at 6:17 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Miss Goncalves – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 10:04 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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