

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 12, 2020
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on March 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Diane Barbosa presented the following statement at 6:36 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular agenda 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 March 6, 2020. In addition, this notice is posted in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.”

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this March 12, 2020 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion may sign in up to the start of the public speaking so that they 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: Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Nathalie Hernandez, Jerry Jacobs, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Stephanie Pestana, Diane Barbosa – 7

Absent: Charlene Bathelus, Stanley Neron – 2

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

Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Pledge of Ethics

Mrs. Barbosa introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer will present our School Preparedness Plan in case we have any school closure with the COVID-19 virus. Mrs. Barbosa stated that this is a very important matter with the virus becoming prevalent. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the team has been working very hard with all the administrators to prepare this plan so

that if it has to go into action every single aspect is taken care of and the most important part is that our children are still being educated every single day.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer presented the School Preparedness Plan. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide of the communication goals including to ensure that all information released to the public is provided through Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer; to provide accurate, consistent, and comprehensive information about a pandemic outbreak including case definitions, treatment options, infection control measures, and reporting requirements; instill and maintain public confidence in the schools and the County's public health care systems and their ability to respond to and manage a pandemic outbreak; ensure an efficient mechanism for managing information between Union County Division of Health, emergency response agencies, health system partners and the schools; contribute to maintaining order, minimizing public panic and fear, and facilitating public compliance by providing accurate, rapid, and complete information; address rumors, inaccuracies, and misperceptions as quickly as possible and prevent the stigmatization of affected groups. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide of the communication protocols including the Union County Division of Health and/or City of Elizabeth Health Officer will educate providers, public officials, schools, and emergency responders about a pandemic and steps they should take to plan for pandemic outbreaks; under the direction of the Superintendent, the district administration will assess the needs of the schools, intensify public education efforts about pandemic outbreaks and steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to infection, information may be disseminated via website postings, parent letters, or school newsletters, Blackboard Connect Messaging System; coordinate with local County Division of Health and/or City of Elizabeth Health Officer and the NJ Department of Education to develop common health messages and educational materials in multiple languages. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slides showing the timeline of communication with parents and families and the CDC/NJ Department of Health resources for parents and families. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that currently, as of March 12, 2020, the NJ Department of Health is not recommending that our schools proactively close; closing schools has significant negative impacts on our community; EPS central administration has been meeting with all principals on a frequent basis to provide information to schools about how to stay open safely; and several community factors have been taken into consideration to not recommend closure of schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the community factors including children are not known to get seriously ill from COVID-19; closing schools may not be effective because some children may congregate anyway, at other locations; many parents, such as healthcare workers, need to be at work and if these critical workers stay home with children, it causes significant impacts on the healthcare system and other institutions that are essential for our community to function; if schools close, some children might have to stay home with alternative caregivers, such as elders, who are more vulnerable; and we don't know how effective children are in spreading this disease. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the NJDOE Bulletin dated March 5, 2020 Requirements to Implement a Health-Related School Closure stating that "in the event a board of education is required to close following a consultation with the New Jersey Department of Education due to a public health-related event, the board of education may utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students." Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing Home Instruction compliance and stated that the provision of home instruction services shall be guided by N.J.A.C.6A:16-10.1 and will include direct services, online instruction, or any other means developed by the district to meet the needs of its students and that any day in which students impacted by a public health-related closure and have access to home instruction services will count as a day in which the board of education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the equitable access to instruction for all students and stated that the Board of Education adopted an Equity Policy File Code No. 2225 and Board Policy Theory of Action: Managed Instruction File Code No. 6000/6000a. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the EPS School Preparedness Plan and stated that everyday practices include encouraging hand hygiene, monitoring absenteeism, and communicating routinely with local,

regional, and national experts; and participating in weekly conference calls with the White House, Governor Phil Murphy, NJ Commissioner of Education, and NJ Commissioner of Health. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the EPS software and systems including Office 365, ClassLink, HP, Pearson, Blackboard Connect, ST Math, EduMet, Pearson Realize, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, IEP Direct, Tyler Technologies, SchoolNet, Konica Minolta, One Unified Classroom. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that maintaining safe schools and good hygiene practices include custodians disinfecting schools using a new cleaning product with greater germ/virus efficacy with special attention to touch points; and practicing good personal hygiene including routine hand washing, using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available, covering coughs, covering sneezes, avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and staying home when sick. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools Preparedness Plan was developed utilizing its existing Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the actions to support community mitigation including field trips to mass gathering locations (amusement parks, concerts, arenas, etc.) are being postponed; medium and smaller gatherings defined as less than 200 participants, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the type of activity, location, and ability for social distancing with an example of school level activities such as National Honor Society Ceremony to continue as planned but community activities such as a school hosting a pancake breakfast will be postponed; and athletic events will proceed as scheduled with no spectators as mandated by the NJSIAA. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the actions to prepare students to maximize educational resources including that families create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, ensure their contact information is up to date, and download their free copy of Microsoft Office Suite onto the student's device.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide for E-Remote Learning and stated that E-Remote Learning allows the Elizabeth Public School District to extend learning into the home and keep everyone safe during emergency closures; it is learning utilizing traditional instructional packets for grades PreK to 2 and leveraging electronic technologies to access specific educational curricula outside of a traditional classroom for grades 3-8 and 9-12; and lessons will be provided to each student consisting of assignments that will cover 14 to 30 days. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing ways to make sure children are successful with their remote learning day including to make sure your child continues to learn and is safe; with a new process there will be many things your child can share about their learning and demonstrate success and there will be opportunities for improvement as we become more familiar with our E-Remote Learning system; and when students return to school, there will be an opportunity for the students and teachers to share the strengths and challenges with the E-Remote Learning Day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing how the children will get the E-Remote Learning assignments that they need to complete at home and stated that the teachers will have lessons for their students via packets and/or uploaded in PowerSchool Unified Classroom, our learning management system for students; prior to leaving the school building, the students will receive the necessary resources to complete their work at home; students who are English Language Learners and Special Education will receive additional materials; and there will be some lessons that will have videos or other media and teachers will work with the students to have this information downloaded to their laptop prior to leaving the school for the day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the PreK Remote Learning information and stated that packets including activities addressing the skills in English language arts, mathematics, science, and art, music, and physical education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Kindergarten Remote Learning for general education, bilingual, and special education for language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and art, music, physical education and library. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Grade 1 Remote Learning for general education, bilingual, and special education including language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, physical education and library. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Grade 2 Remote Learning for general education, bilingual, and special education including language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, physical education, health, and computer literacy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Grades 3-8 Remote Learning for

general education, bilingual, and special education including language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and art, music, and physical education/health. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Elementary ESL and World language Remote Learning including ESL for grades K-2 and grades 3-8 and world languages for grades 3-8. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides for Grades 9-12 Remote Learning including the instructional schedule for John E. Dwyer Technology Academy School No. 82 and Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy School No. 83 and the instructional schedule for Alexander Hamilton School No. 80, Thomas Jefferson Academy School No. 84, Thomas Edison Career and Technical Academy School No. 87, Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy School No. 89, and J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy School No. 90. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing how long do children have to complete assignments on Remote Learning Days and stated that students are expected to complete the lesson(s) assigned by their teachers on a daily basis, E-Remote Learning days are about extending learning outside of the school building and not stopping instruction, teachers will enter grades into PowerSchool, and students will have five school days to complete any make-up work after the work is assigned. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing how they can work with the teacher and stated that teachers will be available throughout the day via virtual office hours from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., during these hours teachers will be accessible through online communication and be available for feedback, discussion, and for grading of student work via PowerSchool, and that a certified teacher will be available for all teachers that are on a Leave of Absence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the continuity of services including tutoring, 504 Related Services, and accommodations not offered out of the school-based setting because the school district is closed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the mental health services for grades 3-8 including continue to provide student with weekly check-ins via online platform, continue to monitor student's academic performance, delivery of intervention strategies via an online platform, provide SEL modules and deliver prerecorded lessons for self-management, emotion regulation, and growth mindset, process for students to contact in cases of crisis, and ensure all parents have access to the Community Resource Guide. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the mental health services for grades 9-12 including continue to provide student with weekly check-ins via an online platform (when appropriate), continue to monitor student's academic performance including APEX access and graduation requirements, delivery of intervention strategies via online platform, maintain delivery schedule for college enrollment, process for students to contact in cases of crisis, and ensure all parents have access to the Community Resource Guide. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the provision of appropriate special education and related services for students with disabilities and stated that the remote learning for our special needs students will consist of packets and online resources based on their individual IEP needs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides showing the description of the individual programs for preschool disabled, autism PreK-5, autism 6-12, LLD-M grades 1-5, LLD-M grades 6-8, LLD-M grades 9-12, LLD-S grades 1-8, LLD-S grades 9-12, MD grades 1-8, MD grades 9-12, MC grades 1-8, and MC grades 9-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Related Services and stated that Trinitas Hospital will be providing packets to all special needs students to address occupational therapy and physical therapy and packets will accompany Rethink to be utilized to address speech services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the provision of school nutrition benefits or services for our free and reduced population of 21,763 students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing how everyone can stay informed and stated that the official information will also be posted on the City's website, www.elizabethnj.org, (under the news and announcements on the homepage) and the school district's website www.epsnj.org, and the ways the Mayor and she can be contacted on official media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her for her informative presentation. Mrs. Barbosa stated that, as a healthcare provider, every day is a new day and we approach it with all the guidance that they give us. Mrs. Barbosa stated that you have to approach every single thing with care. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we sit here and we are so concerned about your children, our children, because we want them to learn, to come to school and be instructed. Mrs. Barbosa stated that this is a new world, it

is a virtual world. Mrs. Barbosa stated that this is something that she, as many of you have never gone through and when we are sitting at home and watching the news we have been through health scares but this one is pretty scary. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we have to appropriately go, not even day by day, but hour by hour. Mrs. Barbosa stated that communication is key and as the second largest district in New Jersey, it is very important that we stay informed with each other, with our City officials, and with our State. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she needs everyone to be in communication with us and to keep an eye on our website. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we will do everything to communicate with robocalls. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we have to stay informed and that is how we are going to get through this, one week, two weeks, next month, or next couple of months. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we have to be health wise at home and in school. Mrs. Barbosa stated that this week she has seen things occur that she has never seen before. Mrs. Barbosa stated that our Superintendent and her team spent hours and hours working on a plan, one sentence at a time and going into a world that we have never touched. Mrs. Barbosa stated that it was difficult, they accomplished it, and we are as prepared as we can be. Mrs. Barbosa stated that Superintendent Hugelmeyer explained the plan in about an hour but it took hours and hours staying until 11:00, midnight to complete. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, instructional directors and supervisors and everyone on that team worked. Mrs. Barbosa stated that with the Board members there was communication hour by hour with our Superintendent and with each other. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are doing the best that we can and we are entering a world that is difficult to analyze what comes next. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are going to do this together, one day a time. Mrs. Barbosa stated that it is very important to keep in touch with us and make sure your information on PowerSchool is up to date. Mrs. Barbosa stated that our goal is to continue instruction and that is what we are here to enforce. Mrs. Barbosa stated that Tuesday morning she contacted our Director of Plant and Property on a conference call with our Superintendent. Mrs. Barbosa stated that Director Luis Couto said that within the hour he was going to meet all the head custodians to go over our protocol again and there are things that they are going to emphasize again for the next couple of weeks and the next couple of months that we know have to be done and be healthy conscious.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is happy and thanked every staff member that has been working extremely hard for the last couple of days. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that it was a very good presentation and she feels that we are very well prepared.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that parents come to these meetings every month and they may not always agree with things that we decide on. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this time is not a time to be critical of the decision makers. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this is the unknown and we are doing everything possible to make sure that your children's best interests are taken care of and not only your children but our staff. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she needs everyone to understand that they need to put some things aside and understand that we are in a situation of a crisis that we need to deal with. Mrs. Carvalho stated that they need to trust that we are doing everything possible for the children to be safe and in a good environment and that their educational priorities are being dealt with. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we are here and we were all elected to be here to be the voice for your children and that these are the times that we are manning up to make sure that those things are done. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this is not the time to be critical of the decisions that are being made. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this is the time for you to stand by our side and support us.

Board President Diane Barbosa presented the following public participation statement.

"At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All

statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Barbosa called upon the first public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little, 225 S. Seventh Street, spoke about the budget and protecting our children.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Barbosa called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special education and the equity policy.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Barbosa called upon the next public participant, Danielle Fienberg, to address the Board.

Danielle Fienberg, 631 North Broad Street, spoke about special education.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Barbosa called upon the next public participant, Eve Banob, to address the Board.

Eve Banob, parent, spoke against the LGBTQ curriculum.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Sameh Banob, to address the Board.

Sameh Banob, parent, spoke against the LGBTQ curriculum.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Sherib Shaker, to address the Board.

Sherib Shaker, 145 Grove Street, spoke against the LGBTQ curriculum.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Barbosa called upon the next public participant, Petro Abdelmessiah, to address the Board.

Petro Abdelmessiah, 622 Jackson Avenue, spoke against the LGBTQ curriculum.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Barbosa called upon the next public participant, Martina Salgado, to address the Board.

Martina Salgado, 421 Erico Avenue, stated that she did not want to speak.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked her and called upon the next public participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Michelle Santos, 55 Erie Street, spoke about special education.

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

Mrs. Barbosa thanked the public participants for coming out and stated that there are a lot of concerns and we do listen. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are taking this one step at a time and there will be a lot of communication and we do listen.

Board President Diane Barbosa requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, appointments; legal matters, specially appointment of broker services, award of contract for student internet service, settlement agreement for special education K.M.; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, L.M., A.B., A.B. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pestana, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to go into private session at 8:02 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Barbosa – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 9:41 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Barbosa – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa introduced City of Elizabeth Health Officer Mark Colicchio to present information on the Coronavirus.

Mark Colicchio, City of Elizabeth Health Officer, presented a PowerPoint on the COVID-19 coronavirus. Mr. Colicchio explained that a coronavirus is a common family of virus that circulates seasonally every year, causes respiratory illness, and spreads much like colds and the flu. Mr. Colicchio stated that that COVID-19 is a new virus, it began infecting humans in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and there is no immunity. Mr. Colicchio stated that other recent coronaviruses include SARS in 2003 and MERS in 2012. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing the distribution of COVID-19 around the world and it has now turned into a pandemic. Mr. Colicchio explained a PowerPoint slide for "Am I at Risk" and stated that the current risk to the general public in the United States is considered to be low but it is a rapidly changing situation and the risk assessment may change daily as new cases are identified. Mr. Colicchio stated that the State sends new information daily on this and today he received new information three times, in the morning, afternoon, and this evening. Mr. Colicchio stated that there is constant communication with the City and the Board of Education and he is on the phone with the Superintendent at least twice a day bringing updates. Mr. Colicchio explained a PowerPoint slide showing the difference between isolation and quarantine. Mr. Colicchio stated that there is enhanced screening and Newark Liberty Airport is one of eleven sites in the country where there is enhanced screening and a quarantine station. Mr. Colicchio stated that he is in constant contact with the Center for Disease Control and has developed a working relationship with the CDC to monitor the screening and infection rate. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing active monitoring vs. passive monitoring (self-monitoring). Mr. Colicchio explained a PowerPoint slide showing "Putting Your Risk Into Perspective" with millions of cases of influenza and that the flu severity is unpredictable. Mr. Colicchio explained a PowerPoint slide showing the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 including respiratory illness, fever with temperatures of 100.4 and above, cough, and shortness of breath. Mr. Colicchio stated that the symptoms range from mild to severe

and deaths mainly occur in older adults and those with other health conditions. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing how coronaviruses spread including through the air by coughs and sneezes, touching an object or surface with the virus on it then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, and close contact with those who are sick. Mr. Colicchio stated that health care workers need to wear protective gear to prevent exposure during medical care. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing the incubation period and stated that it is the time frame from when a person is exposed to when they develop symptoms and the incubation period for COVID-19 is about 2 to 14 days. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide about treatment and stated that there is no specific treatment because this is a new virus and treatment is done through supportive care and the symptoms are treated as they go along. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide about living in an area where community spread may occur and become sick and stated that most people will have mild illness and can treat themselves at home with rest, fever-reducing medications, plenty of fluids, and healthy foods. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing at what point should they seek medical attention and stated that if they are sick with what may be COVID-19 and are experiencing any of the following they should seek medical care right away including difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face. Mr. Colicchio stated that the list is not conclusive and to consult your health care provider. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing information for the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions regardless of age who are higher risk and stated that they should have medications, supplies, and necessities on hand, avoid close contact with people who are sick, take every day preventative actions, avoid crowds as much as possible, and speak to their health care provider ahead of time to have a plan in place. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing “COVID-19 and Children” and stated that according to a study of 70,000 cases in China, approximately only 2% of COVID-19 cases have occurred in children under the age of 19 and parents with children under the age of 19 who have underlying health conditions should talk to their health care provider to discuss risk and have a plan. Mr. Colicchio stated that there are still plenty of unknowns and we are learning more and more about this virus every day. Mr. Colicchio stated that there is much that the CDC doesn’t know and they are analyzing data and sharing the information as it becomes accessible. Mr. Colicchio stated that the federal government is sharing information with the states who are sharing it with the local health departments. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing how we can prevent the spread and stated that common sense hygiene including covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve, wash hands often or use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available, stay home when sick, avoid others who are sick, and social distancing. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide about traveling to an affected area and stated that the CDC website posts travel restrictions and people should avoid all non-essential travel to areas specified by the CDC, and if you must travel use common sense including avoid contact with sick people, wash hands often, and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing what to do if you recently travelled to an affected area and feel sick. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing what the CDC is doing to identify cases including close monitoring of the outbreak, working with state and local public health partners, enhanced entry screening at designated U.S. airports, and monitoring travelers with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 infection and travel history to certain affected areas. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing instructions for a health alert to watch your health for two weeks after your trip and to stay home if you feel sick with fever, cough, or have difficulty breathing, call your doctor, and tell the doctor about your travel. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing who should be tested and stated that the CDC and the State set specific criteria that help health care providers determine a person’s level of risk and who should be tested, the criteria are subject to change as the situation evolves, and there is no general screening or swabbing for people who do not have symptoms. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing the COVID-19 risk level for individuals. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing the key terms including close contact means being within 6 feet of a person confirmed to have COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time, self-isolation means separates sick individuals, and social distancing means avoiding group settings, mass gatherings, and monitoring distance of 6 feet from others. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing COVID-19 and pets and stated that to date there are no reports of pets

being infected, if sick with COVID-19 you should restrict contact with pets and other animals and have another person care for your pet. Mr. Colicchio stated that there are a lot of unknowns about this virus. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing what the NJ Department of Health is doing to prepare us for this and stated that they are working closely with the CDC and local public health partners, establishing clinical guideline documents in the event New Jersey has a case of the virus, and establishing communication with healthcare providers and public health officials statewide. Mr. Colicchio stated that he is on the phone with the County health officials and the Superintendent and that we are working as a team and we need each other. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing the resources available for more information including the CDC website, NJ Department of Health website, City of Elizabeth website, and the Elizabeth Board of Education website. Mr. Colicchio presented a PowerPoint slide showing the important hotline numbers available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for any questions people may have about COVID-19. Mr. Colicchio stated that concludes his presentation and asked if there were any questions or concerns from Board members.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked Mr. Colicchio for the informative presentation.

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

Mrs. Barbosa added the following to the agenda:

Resolution - Qualifying and Appointing Health Benefits Broker
Resolution - Qualifying and Appointing Risk Manager
Award of Contract for Altice Business for Student Wi-Fi Service
Resolution – Appointment of Principal
Resolution – Approval of E-Remote Learning Plan
Resolution - Settlement of Workers' Comp – L.M.
Resolution - Settlement of Workers' Comp – A.B.
Resolution - Settlement of Workers' Comp – A.B.
Resolution - Settlement of Special Education – K.M.
Resolution – Submission of Tentative Budget 2020-2021 School Year

Mrs. Barbosa placed the agenda in its entirety including those items added for our Board meeting next Thursday.

Mrs. Pestana requested that the personnel matter for J.C., on the Personnel Report, be tabled.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pestana, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, that the above be tabled.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Barbosa – 6

Negative: None

Minutes of the Meetings of February 8, 13, and 20, 2020

Secretary and Treasurer's Report

Personnel Report

Tuitions Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report
Award of Contracts
Supplemental Award of Contracts
Miscellaneous Communication
Claims List
Resolution – U.C.E.S.C. Coordinated Transportation Services 2020-2021 School Year
Resolution – Autism Awareness Month
Resolution – National Library Week
Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver
Resolution – Appointing Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC and Approving Form of Contract
Resolution – Appointing RP Baking, LLC and Approving Form of Contract
Resolution – Appointing Mivila Corporation d/b/a Mivila Foods
Resolution – Revised Job Description – Teacher Instructional Coach (NAF)
Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Resolution – Maximum Travel Expenditure 2020-2021 School Year
Resolution – ESC of New Jersey Educational Services Agreement 2020-2025
Resolution – Appointing Brother Sister Duo, Inc. d/b/a Malachy Mechanical
Resolution - Revised Policy Personal Illness and Injury/Health and Hardship 4151.1/4251.1
Resolution - Appointing V. A. Tramontano & Son, Inc. for Fresh Produce
Resolution - Appointing Appco Paper and Plastic Corp

Mrs. Carvalho returned to the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

Mrs. Pestana thanked our Superintendent, administrators, and educators for doing everything they can for our almost 30,000 students. Mrs. Pestana thanked our food service workers, custodians, and security staff for keeping our children safe and sanitize the best we possibly can and their hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. Mrs. Pestana stated that we are doing this as a team and we appreciate everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Jacobs echoed the comments made by his fellow colleagues on the work that has been done especially our custodial staff. Mr. Jacobs stated that because sometimes the custodial staff goes unnoticed and they really deserve recognition for what they are doing in the schools and trying to keep our schools clean. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is a team effort from the top down and we really do see that nowadays. Mr. Jacobs stated that a colleague mentioned a story about a child being sick in the classroom and they had the other children segregated out of the classroom and the custodian was in that classroom cleaning that classroom and this was before the COVID-19 virus broke out. Mr. Jacobs stated that it just goes to show how our staff really go above and beyond when it comes to taking care of our children.

Mrs. Barbosa requested a motion to suspend the rules.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to suspend the rules.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Barbosa – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa presented two resolutions for adoption:

Resolution – Contract for Altice for Student Wi-Fi Service

Resolution – Approval of E-Remote Learning Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Pestana, that the above resolutions be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Barbosa – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the contract for Altice is for all of our students across the district to have internet service in case we have to close schools and proceed with the E-remote learning plan.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the contract for internet service is very important.

Mrs. Pestana stated that it will be an additional cost for our district.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if there were any comments.

Mr. Kennedy congratulated the Boys Basketball Team for winning the North Group 4 Championship and Coach Colicchio's 500th victory.

The Board members congratulated the Boys Basketball Team and Coach Colicchio's 500th win.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that as we close this meeting, she would like to spread goodwill and health as we progress through this unknown territory but with a lot of confidence that we are ready for what is to come. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are prepared because we are going to do this together and we will communicate any new information constantly updating our website. Mrs. Barbosa said to everyone to please download our EPS app and go onto our website for current information. Mrs. Barbosa stated that there are two sources of information here, coming from our Mayor of the City of Elizabeth and coming from our Superintendent. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we are working with them and we will get through this however it may be resolved.

On a motion by Mrs. Pestana, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Barbosa – 7

Negative: None

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