

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approved Board Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

March 18, 2025  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Stanley J. Neron called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the March 18, 2025, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education and read the following statement:

“Good evening and welcome to our Board of Education Meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education. This is a combined regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star-Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on March 13, 2025. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.”

“We want to welcome everyone present here at School No. 51 and to our television viewers to this March 18, 2025, 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. So that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking.”

“We 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.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must personally sign in prior to the start of the public participation portion 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.”

“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.”

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, (arrived 6:48) Carvalho, Chevres, (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messer’s Rivera, Neron-8

Absent: Ms. Bathelus-1

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch-Johnson, Interim Assistant School Business Administrator Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel, Heather Savage Ford, and Co-General Counsel Michael Simitz Esq., of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Teresa “Terri” Bradley a Retired Kindergarten Teacher, Christopher Columbus School No. 15 and Luis Miguel Sanchez, Father of Rebecca Orellana, Supervisor of Bilingual & ESL Education.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Maria Carvalho

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana

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

Board President Stanley Neron introduced District Superintendent, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, and asked her to present the Student Representative to the Board of Education for the month of March. Jasmeli Cruz is a senior at Thomas A Edison Career and Technical Academy where she serves as Senior Class President. She is a dedicated scholar and is a member of the National Honor Society. Jasmeli has maintained Honor Roll status all four years of her high school career. She is a New Jersey Stars recipient which is a recognition awarded to students who maintain high grades in their first three years of high school and are among the top 15 students in their class. Beyond academics, Jasmeli is actively involved in Track and Field and is passionate about giving back to her community through her volunteer work. Jasmeli truly enjoys decorating the school for Holidays and other events bringing a festive and welcoming atmosphere to the school community.

Jasmeli plans to attend college and major in Education with the goal of becoming a pre-school teacher.

Dr. Hugelmeyer stated it was her pleasure to ask Miss Cruz to come forward and take her seat on the Dais.

Mr. Neron asked Mrs. Ford to memorialize Miss Cruz’s attendance in the official proceedings of the meeting. This was noted and Miss Cruz’s attendance is recorded in this, the official minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Neron then read the following statement:  
Citizens may address the Board.

“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 microphone 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 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another

individual. All comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies were provided next to the sign in sheet)".

The following rules shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced.
2. No personal attacks on individuals or the naming of individuals.
3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Comments will not be debated.

Any person in violation of the Policy will be warned, and their comments terminated if needed. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting."

"As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public."

Mr. Neron called upon the first participant Mrs. Janelle Warner to address the Board.

Mrs. Warner spoke about Policy enforcement.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Neron called upon the next participant, Mr. David Baquerizo, to address the Board.

Mr. Baquerizo spoke about Policy enforcement.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Neron called upon the next participant, Ms. Tina Bigler, to address the Board.

Ms. Bigler spoke about an incident.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Neron called upon the next participant Mrs. Michelle Santos to address the Board.

Mrs. Santos spoke about the 2025/2026 Special Education Budget.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments

Mr. Neron called upon the next participant, Mrs. Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about her experience with the Aide in Lieu program.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments.

Since there were no public participants signed up to address the Board, Mr. Neron closed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Neron turned the microphone over to Superintendent Hugelmeyer so that she could clarify some points about the policy regarding electronic communications by school staff. It is important for our community to understand that any communication using any electronic device cannot be one on one. It is very clear in the policy that it states as a general rule that once the communication is approved by the principal, it has to be sent to all team members and all activity participants. If you have an athletic team, a baseball team for example and there is communication from the coach, it has to go out to the entire team. If students are participating in a club, and there is a reminder of an activity the next day, it would have to go out to all participants in that club.

The policy also speaks to the fact that it must be through a district computer, it has to be a device monitored by the school district. The policy also states that school employees will not give out their private cell phone numbers nor their home numbers without the prior approval of the principal of the school. It has to be clearly stated what the intent is and again it is important to note that it needs the approval of an administrator. The policy goes on to describe and list what is not allowable as communication. The Superintendent further stated that on an annual basis all staff members are given a proper orientation to the policies of the District at the first faculty meeting of the year. The burden then falls on the employee to abide by those policies.

Mr. Neron thanked Dr. Hugelmeyer for her comments and those community members who voiced their concerns at the meeting. He further stated that when the Board/Administration hears a hint on any criminal activity by a staff member it is immediately investigated. However, the District has to pursue tenure charges and conduct hearings as prescribed by both policy and state law.

Board President Stan Neron asked this month's student representative, Jasmeli Cruz, to present her report to the community.

Good evening, board members, community members, and our Superintendent of Schools Dr. Hugelmeyer. I am truly honored to serve as the Student Representative for Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy. As an Edison student, I take great pride in representing my school in this role. Currently, I am a senior, serving as both a Student Advisor and Class President. This position has given me the opportunity to not only listen to the voices of my fellow students but also to understand the proper ways to implement positive changes within our school. It has also allowed me to actively participate in various events, clubs, and activities at my school, further enriching my experience and connection with the school community.

The CTE programs at Edison have had an exciting month. The cosmetology program has been welcoming local senior citizens every Tuesday, allowing students to engage with the community by offering haircuts, blowouts, and manicures. ShopRite celebrated its grand opening last month, giving students a chance to explore both the customer service and behind-the-scenes aspects of the store. After school, students can also buy snacks and drinks there. The Construction Technology program has been busy building theater sets for School 7 and Jefferson's school musical. Throughout the process, students gained valuable hands-on experience with various tools and skills. One of our Physical Education teachers, Ms. Dubin secured a \$15,000 grant through the Winter 4 Kids' First Track program, which offers students life-enriching experiences and mentorship. This program, which focuses on self-development, health, opportunities, mastery, and a love for the outdoors, allows students to learn snowboarding, alpine, and cross-country skiing. Each participant is thrilled about the chance to get involved. Additionally, the Safe Driving Club partnered with the Champion Schools program to address safe passing laws. Their project aims to work with the city of Elizabeth to install crosswalks in front of the school,

enhancing safety for students and staff. Each program is making great strides and staying actively involved, and we look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future. There are several exciting events and activities taking place across the high schools in our district. Jefferson Academy is holding a poster competition where students create a tribute to a woman who has made a meaningful impact in their lives. In addition, Jefferson Academy will be showcasing their spring musical, *Sister Act*, which will take place on March 27, 28, and 29. J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy is organizing a women's business trip, providing students with valuable insights and experiences. Meanwhile, STEM Academy is celebrating Women's History Month by hosting a day where students can dress as influential women who have made a significant impact on the world. This is just a glimpse of the incredible initiatives our district and students are engaged in, and I am proud to represent both my school and the district.

Mr. Neron stated that to conclude the opening calendar for this evening, we would like to present a spotlight video highlighting the initiative sponsored by Board Member Rosa Moreno-Ortega which is Women's History Month. Throughout the month of March, Elizabeth Public Schools will be promoting women's extraordinary achievements and contributions to society. Students will be engaged through lessons, activities, events, and performances honoring the women of our community and around the globe who are making a difference in our world in our daily lives. At this time, I would like to present this video tribute for Women's History Month. The full video of this initiative will be posted on our website at the end of the month.

Mr. Neron asked Dr. Hugelmeyer to present the Community updates. The Superintendent showed a series of Power Point Slides that highlighted the following:

Registration for the Early Childhood Lottery will end on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Parents must reserve an appointment at [links.espnj.org/ecregistration](https://links.espnj.org/ecregistration). As a reminder this just not for lottery schools but all schools who offer an Early Childhood program

The application period for the Gifted and Talented Program started with an information session that was held on February 25<sup>th</sup> and will run to April 4<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades two (2) through four (4) are eligible to apply. The application process includes an entrance examination for grades two, three and four. Families can visit the District web site for further information.

The Panorama Family Survey has been live since February 18<sup>th</sup> and will be online through April 16<sup>th</sup>. The survey is available in multiple languages and may be accessed by scanning the QR code on the Board's announcements tab or via the internet: [www.surveys.pannoramaed.com/Elizabeth/spring25family/surveys](https://www.surveys.pannoramaed.com/Elizabeth/spring25family/surveys). The District wants to hear from families as your feedback is very important. Moreover, the survey can be completed in less than Five (5) minutes.

Scholarship & FAFSA Completion Nights are scheduled at Dwyer Academy on the following dates from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: March 25<sup>th</sup>/ April 16<sup>th</sup>/ April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>. For Scholarships, please create a GOING MERRY account prior to attending a session [www.GoingMerry.com](https://www.GoingMerry.com) For FAFSA sessions please create a FSA ID prior to attending. Please remember to bring a laptop and tax documents. These items are a must. Counselors will be available to assist with scholarship applications. For more information, please contact Aimee Saluccio, the District's College & Career Coordinator at 908-436-6669 or [saluvvioai@EPSNJ.org](mailto:saluvvioai@EPSNJ.org)

High School Selection 2025 Information Sessions will be held as follows:

- Dwyer Technology Academy (227 Center Street \*\*) 3/19/2025
- Elizabeth High School-Cicarell Academy (40 Morrell Street) 3/20/2025
- Bollwage Finance Academy (447 Richmond Street) 3/24/2025
- Jefferson Arts Academy (27 Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza) 3/25/2025
- JVJ STEM Academy (237 (South Broad Street) 3/26/2025
- Halsey Health & Public Safety Academy (699 South Street\*\*) 3/27/2025
- Hamilton Preparatory Academy (1003 North Broad Street\*\*) 4/1/2025
- Edison Career & Technical Academy (625 Summer Street) 4/2/2025
- \*\*-Address of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy

High Schools Registrations April 2-April 17

The High school Junior Seminar will take place at Bollwage Finance Academy, (647 Richmond St), on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This seminar will be open to all High School Juniors and Parents to help prepare students for the College Application Process.

Workshops Include:

- Demonstrate Interest and how to get the most out of College Fairs/College Visits
- The College Application Process and Common Application
- How to use “SCOIR” for College Planning and Building a College List
- College Essays, Personal Statement & Tutor.com
- Exploring College Majors, Career Planning, and Building a Strong Resume with Extracurriculars.
- Time Management and Stress Reduction for College applicants
- Financial Age and Scholarships.

The Autism Acceptance Celebration & Resource Fair – April 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Turf Field at Warinaco Park, Roselle (Rain Date April 12<sup>th</sup> – same time and location). The Union County Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Human Services along with the Union County office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs are the presenters of this event. Activities include a Live DJ, Crafts, Touch-A-Truck, Giveaways and more. It will have a Superhero theme and costumes are encouraged. This is a FREE EVENT and people can register at [ucnj.org/opdsn-reg](http://ucnj.org/opdsn-reg).

Dr. Hugelmeyer presented a slide containing Spring 2025 Assessment updates.

- Assessment – ACCESS for ELLS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLS / February 3-March 31/All Multilingual Learners (MLs).
- NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)/ March 11-14) / 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not yet taken the assessment for graduation.
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) / April 29 / 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not yet taken the assessment for graduation.
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) / April 8-May 28/ Students in grades 3-8 and 1 in place of NJSLA

- Advanced Placement (AP Exams / May 5- May 16/ High School students enrolled in AP Courses
- Nj Student Learning Assessment (NJ SLA) ELA, Math, Science / May 6-May 23/Students in grades 3-8 and high school-Specific dates for grade level are on the District web site.

Dr. Hugelmeyer presented a series of Power Point Slides that were part of the Inside EPS News from our Central Administration.

EPS Students participated in One Community One Family Coalition's annual day of conversation at the Elizabethport Community Center. The members of the Coalition collaborated with Prevention Links and Elizabeth Public Schools, including students from George Washington Academy School No.1 and from the J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy, to engage in a discussion on mental health and drug prevention. The goal of the annual event to bring together representations from various parts of the community to share experiences and opinions that inform recommendations to help our community drug free.

Two talented seniors from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, Karen Ximena Larios Molina and Anthong Ruiz have been selected as recipients of the 2025 Record High and Devils Youth Foundation (DYF) Annual Scholarship Award. The DYF partners with Record High, a contemporary music education program, for an annual scholarship program. Awarding \$ 1,000 to New Jersey high school seniors demonstrating talent in music and leadership, and also recognizes commitment to sports, community service and leadership. On March 20, they will attend a New Jersey Devils hockey game at the Prudential Center in Newark, where they will receive their scholarship check during a pregame reception and awards dinner. After the reception, they will be special guests and watch the game from the Prudential Luxury Suites.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was selected as the winner of the 2024 Union County Fairy Trail House Art Contest. The Union County Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Parks and Recreation invited all middle and high school schools to participate in the 2024 Fairy House Art Contest. The contest, part of Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Moude's 2024 "Growing Together in Union County" initiatives, encouraged Union County students from sixth through twelfth grade to design and create magical fairy housers, with a special prize awarded to the winning entry. The Fairy Houses had to be constructed from all-natural, biodegradable materials, including small stones, pebbles, acorns, dried reeds, grasses, small sticks, twigs, seashells, dried flowers, pinecones, small tree cookies, dried moss, native vines, and tree bark. The use of plastic, glitter, metals or other non-natural materials were prohibited and any paint used had to be eco-friendly and biodegradable. The students of art teacher Beth Barber who submitted the fairy trail house were awarded \$1,000.

Two Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30 students were selected to have their artwork included in the New Jersey Performing Arts Late Winter State Exhibit. Sixth grade student, Chloe Negro's still life piece and fifth grade student Danielle Twumasi Agyapong's abstract portrait will be prominently displayed in the gallery at the entrance of the Victoria Theater. The NJPAC is a professional art gallery that the public, students and their families can visit all year long. Art Educators of New Jersey partners with NJPAC to provide gallery space for select students of AENJ members to showcase their work at NJPAC. Approximately thirty artworks among over 100 received are displayed each exhibit period. These two pieces will be part of the late winter exhibit

that will be open to the public for viewing until April 1. Congratulations to our talented students and their art teacher Jana Ortiz for this exciting honor.

#### April 2025 Celebrations, Acknowledgements & Commemorations

- April 2 World Autism Acceptance Day
- April 7-11 National Vice Principals' Week
- April 20-26 National Volunteer Week
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 23 Administrative Professionals' Day
- Month of April – National Autism Acceptance Month
- Month of April – Jazz Appreciation Month

Board President Stanley Neron recognized those students who were selected as “Unsung Heros” for Union County. They were recognized at a reception on March 12<sup>th</sup> at a reception at Liberty Hall at Kean University.

- J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
- Jasiyah Yvonne Holley
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Emely Madai Herrera
- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy
- Victor Hugo De Leon Garcia
- Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy
- Nathan Martins
- Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy
- Samarah L. Butler
- Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Bryan Mateo Tigselema Chancay
- Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy
- Gabriela Lisbeth Santana Vasquez
- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson STEM Academy
- Elaan Idriss Evans
- Month of April – National Poetry Month

Mr. Neron commenced a review of the evening's Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (January 31st, 2025) was added to the Agenda

Tab 2a) Personnel Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 4) Superintendent's Reports were added to the Agenda.



Tab 4a) Considerations was added to the Agenda

Tab 4b) Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda

Tab 4bb) Use of Facilities – Considerations was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4c) Field Trips was added to the Agenda

Tab 5) Authorizations Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report – Mrs. Carvalho asked about Tab 6-A item 12 – payment to Honeywell, was this a final payment on a project? Mr. Malhotra replied that this was January’s invoice for ESIP services. Mrs. Carvalho then asked for a recap of all payments to Honeywell and the scope of their services.

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 6a) Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 7) Award of Contracts Report -Mrs. Goncalves Pestana asked about the particulars regarding the Contract with Black River Defensive Solutions LLC. The District Security Director, Matthew Glackin, responded that this contract was a continuation of the Stop the Bleed training for the Security staff. This particular phase involves 20 Security offices. It is Mr. Glackin’s goal to have the entire security staff complete “Stop the Bleed” training within the next two years. This is not training, where individual Security Officers train other officers, but all staff members are trained by experts in these procedures. Once a Security Officer successfully completes the training, they are issued a kit that they will carry with them to address any incident where a person is bleeding.

Mrs. Moreno – Ortega was pleased with the contracts with Prevention Links and Nicole Macaluso LCSW that shows the safety of our children are a high priority. The contract with Prevention Links is a new safety initiative to help Prom goers remain safe before, during and after the prom. The contract with Ms. Macaluso is a virtual session instructing parents on how to keep their children safe on line.

Mrs. Barbosa asked for further information on the contract with Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care- Mr. Sam Etienne, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that this contract will provide opportunities for students in our Health Care programs to shadow professional staff and get practical hours needed for certifications in their field.

Board Member Jerry Jacobs inquired about the work being contracted with Murray Paving at Williams Field. Mr. Luis Milanés, Director of Plant, Property and Equipment explained that this was improvements being done near the Field House, (Green St. side), and adjacent to the back of the baseball field within the Williams Field Complex.

Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho and Mr. Jacobs questioned Mr. Luis Milanés, Director of Plant, Property and Equipment, about a contract with Open Systems Integrators. This contract is part of the district’s security systems upgrades and integration. Twenty-one (21) schools, including

School 5, now have full camera coverage. In addition, Mr. Milanes explained that this contract was sourced through the Middlesex County Co-operative rather than through the District's bid process. Going through the cooperative provides certified vendors who have security bonds in place and have gone through a bidding process with the cooperative.

Tab 7) Award of Contracts was added to the Agenda.

President Neron asked each Committee Chair to present their meeting recaps to the rest of the Board.

### **Education Management Committee**

March 3, 2025

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Stan Neron, Board President, Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Member/Chairperson of the Education Management Committee; Maria Carvalho, Board Vice President, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Member, Michael Simitz, Co-General Counsel, Judge Malone, Co-General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator and Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent presented to the committee the district's performance following the end of Marking Period 2. The categories reviewed included student attendance, chronic absenteeism, suspension data and academic performance inclusive of benchmark and marking period performance for all students in Pk through Grade 12.

The next presentation to the committee included the annual indicators on the district's scorecard. This included a review of the state assessment performance in ELA and Mathematics, attendance marking period performance and other interim indicators such as school safety.

Lastly, the committee engaged in a discussion regarding the 2024-2025 amended ESSA State Plan. The amendment included amended targets for Content Areas: ELA and Math, Graduation Rate and English Language Proficiency. The committee discussed the impact on the school's proficiency in ELA/Math as well as student growth in both categories.

### **Special Education Committee**

March 6, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Iliana Chevres, Chairperson of the Special Education Committee; Board Member, Diane Barbosa, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services.

The Superintendent and Director of Special Services presented the 2025-2026 budget for the Division of Special Services. The presentation included the proposed opening of new classrooms, supplies and related services.

The SEPAC policy revisions were discussed and referred to the Legal Committee for review at its upcoming meeting. The committee also discussed the communication plan for both the workshop for parents on guardianship scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> and the community fair scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Negotiations Committee**

March 7, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Stan Neron, Board President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Negotiations Committee; Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Dieter Lerch and Julius Consoni, Financial Consultants Lerch, Vinci, Higgins, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra, Interim Assistant School Business Administrator and Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Kennedy provided the committee with an overview of the NJDOE State Aid notice issued on February 27, 2025. The committee engaged in a discussion regarding the main drivers of the increases and decreases referenced on the State Aid notice. Dieter Lerch briefed the committee on the analysis of medical plan enrollment.

Tab 9) Claims list was added to the Agenda

Resolutions 10 through 10j were presented by Board President Stan Neron. – Mr. Jacobs commented that the Budget resolution, that was on the agenda this evening reflects an increase in State aid to the district of fourteen (14) million dollars (2.5%) which is significantly less than what Elizabeth had received in the past. He further explained with the dismantling of the U.S. Dept of Education, Federal aid which funds Title I/II/III programs may be reduced, and the district may not know about Federal funding till late May/early June. Mr. Jacobs complimented Dr. Hugelmeyer, Mr. Kennedy and the Finance/Business office for preparing the budget in a manner that the Title I, II, III programs will be covered by general budget dollars in case Federal Aid falls short.

Resolutions 10 through 10j were added to the agenda.

Mr. Neron stated that the President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of:

Legal Matters – specifically Workman’s Compensation Case V.C., O.D.L., J.M., and Settlement Authority for F.A. and N.G.

The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Rivera to go into private session at 7:56 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messer's. Rivera. Neron. -8

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to return to public session at 8:59 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messer's Rivera, Neron - 8

At Mrs. Ford's request, the following items were added to the Agenda:

- Resolution- Settlement of Workers Compensation Case O. D-L-1
- Resolution- Settlement of Workers Compensation Case O. D-L-2
- Resolution- Settlement of Workers Compensation Case J.M.
- Resolution- Settlement of Workers Compensation Case V.C.

Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer presented the H.I.B report for the month of March.

1.) Pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, and New Jersey Statute 18A:37, "The results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next board meeting following completion of the investigation and include: 1) Any services provided; 2) Training established; 3) Discipline imposed; or 4) Other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator."

2.) Since our last Board of Education meeting on February 20, 2025, and through March 11, 2025, our school counselors, school based social workers and Supervisor of Anti-Bullying have completed 54 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 14 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 31 males, 26 females, 48 regular education students and 9 special education students that were the alleged victims. There were 47 males, 34 females, 67 regular education students, 10 special education students and 4 non-students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 14 cases Founded for HIB, 1 case was Founded based on Race/National Origin, 1 case was Founded based on Sexual Orientation, 3 cases were Founded based on Gender, 1 case was Founded based on Gender Identity and Expression and 11 cases were Founded based on "Other" identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 16 skill development lessons/trainings, 44 counseling sessions, 4 behavioral interventions, 15 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 5 changes of classroom, 2 administrative counseling sessions, 10 in school detentions, 40 parent conferences, 3 referrals to outside agencies, 21 out of school suspensions, and 7 cases are continuing to be monitored.

3.) The HIB statute further requires that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after board members receive the initial report of HIB investigations, that the Board issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent's decision pertaining to the 52 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on February 20, 2025. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations which were reported to you at the last board meeting, have been provided for your review prior to voting.

Mr. Neron asked for a motion and a second to adopt the following agenda

Opening Calendar

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (January 31, 2024)

Personnel Reports

Tuitions Reports

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Claims List

Resolutions:

Adoption of Tentative Budget 2025-2026

W.C.S.S.D. 2025-2026 Coordinated Transportation Services Agreement

Autism Awareness Month

National Library Week

Appointing BGD Contracting, LLC – Bathroom Renovations- Mitchell Building

Payment for Unused Sick Days

Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Renew Contract with Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC for 2025-2026 School Year

Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Maximum Travel Expenditures 2025-2026 School Year

Worker's Comp Settlement – O.D-L. (1)

Worker's Comp Settlement – O.D-L. (2)

Worker's Comp Settlement – J.M.

Worker's Comp Settlement – V.C.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana a to approve the entire Agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, (With an abstention(s) on Tab 7 pg. 2, Contract Valenca Restaurant and School #19, Tab 7 pg.2, Contract Valenca Restaurant and School #18, Tab 7 pg. 4, Contract Valenca Restaurant and School #4, Tab 7 pg. 5 Contract Valenca Restaurant and School #16). Mrs. Carvalho, (with abstention(s) on Tab 4a item #3 Luis Milanes attendance at Conference, Tab 4 Item# 3 Elizabeth Police Dept use of Cicarell Academy Gym, Donation from

Groundwork Elizabeth and Union County Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Chevres with abstention(s) on Tab 4a item #3 Luis Milanes attendance at Conference, Tab7 pg.2, Contract with Prevention Links.), Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, ( With an abstention on Tab 5-Donation from Union County Board of Commissioners School #22), Mr. Neron (with an abstention(s) on Tab 4 Item# 3 Elizabeth Police Dept use of Cicarell Academy Gym, Tab7 pg.2, Contract with Prevention Links.) -8

Negative: none

On a motion made by Mrs. Barbosa and seconded by Mr. Rivera, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Messer's Rivera, Mr. Neron-8

Negative: none

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