

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 27, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 7:02 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 Friday, March 23, 2018. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present to this March 27, 2018 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. 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 prior 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, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (arr. 7:05 p.m.), Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 9

Absent: None

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Carvalho presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in 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.”

Since there were no citizens to address the Board, Mrs. Carvalho declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Personnel Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Negative: Messrs. Jacobs, Neron – 2

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Abstain: Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez – 2

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Adoption of the Tentative Budget for 2018-2019 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated finance committee chair Dan Nina, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, and staff for being able to deliver another budget that, once again, does not raise the local tax levy.

Mr. Nina stated that it took a lot of hours and commitment from the finance committee. Mr. Nina stated that for three years in a row there has been no increase of local taxes. Mr. Nina stated that there are 0 layoffs. Mr. Nina stated that we’ve added 2 academies and opened a new school and have not raised the local tax levy.

Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Williams stated that there is a resolution for termination of C.W.

Ms. Bathelus requested the resolution be moved to private session.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for personnel, specifically, termination. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to go into private session at 7:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Nina excused himself from the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to return to public session at 7:56 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Resolution – Termination of Employment – C.W.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez wished everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover and to enjoy time with family and friends.

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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