

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 28, 2022
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., using an online platform.

Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 5:35 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 March 25, 2022. 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.

There will be an online public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must personally register online up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form states the name and email of the person who wants to comment. Members of the public who prefer not to, or do not have the means to, participate using the online platform may continue to participate by emailing statements relative to agenda items and/or educational matters to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org. All statements received will be read into the record during the meeting’s public comment portion. All emails must be submitted and received by the Secretary of the Board up to the start of the meeting and, as is always the case, must include the public member’s full name for the record. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. Emails received but not read after the 60 minute duration will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.”

Present: Diane Barbosa (arr. 7:20 pm.), Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Charlene B. Dorgely, Jerry Jacobs, Stanley Neron, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Rosa Moreno-Ortega – 8

Absent: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez – 1

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 present via an online platform.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following public participation statement.

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

Mr. Kennedy called upon the first public participant, Jailane Pereira, to address the Board.

Jailane Pereira spoke about special education.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the next public participant, Maria Echavarria, to address the Board. Maria Echavarria did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy stated that no emails were received for public participation.

Since there were no other participants for public speaking and no emails received, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega closed this portion of the meeting.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to go into private session at 5:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Goncalves Pestana, Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Chevres, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to reconvene in public session at 8:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Goncalves Pestana, Moreno-Ortega – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any Board member questions or comments.

On a motion by Mrs. Dorgely, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Goncalves Pestana, Moreno-Ortega – 8

Negative: None

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