

APPROVED
Bd Mtg 4-19-2023

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 30, 2023,
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 30, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. using a virtual online platform.

Board President Iliana Chevres called on School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 1:04 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. 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 28, 2023. 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 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, email, and phone number 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, 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 Minutes of this meeting.”

Present: Barbosa (arrival 1:10p.m.), Carvalho, Dorgely, Jacobs, Neron, Goncalves Pestana, Rivera, Chevres- 8

Absent: Moreno-Ortega-1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., and Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi, Esq. of Kologi and Simitz Law Office were on the online platform.

Board President Iliana Chevres requested a motion and second to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution – Approving Memorandum of Agreement between the Elizabeth Board of Education and the Elizabeth Education Association (July 2022-June 2025)

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves-Pestana, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adopt the resolution.

Mrs. Chevres asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Neron said he wanted to thank the Administration, the Union, our lawyers, and all those who worked so hard to make this contract a reality. As a result of this agreement, we can now move our district forward and provide a quality educational experience for all our students. We sincerely appreciate and value the efforts of our teachers and support staff.

Mr. Jacobs said he wanted to echo the comments made by Mr. Neron and he expressed his gratitude to the Board's negotiating team, especially Jonathan Williams, Judge Malone, Michael Oppici, along with his Board colleagues who joined him on this team. In addition, he wanted to thank the Union leadership for their efforts in coming to this agreement and that this shows how much we appreciate our employees and staff.

A final thank you was given to all his Board colleagues who supported the vision the team had in negotiating this contract.

Being there were no more comments, Mrs. Chevres asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera -6

Abstain – Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres -2

Negative: None

Board President Iliana Chevres called on School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following public participation statement:

“At this time, the meeting is open for public comment online to those who have registered with the online participation form prior to this session. I shall call individuals to participate 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 statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participation 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. If the 60 minute public comment period expires before all registered online participants have been called, remaining participants can email their statements to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org and they will be spread in full in the Official Minutes of this meeting. The Secretary of the Board will read into the record all emails that have been submitted up to the start of the meeting. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration.”

Mr. Kennedy stated that he will call upon the participants in the order in which they registered online to speak.

Mr. Kennedy twice called upon the first public participant, Jamie Betances, to address the Board. Jamie Betances did not respond.

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

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Maria I. Gomez, to address the Board. Ms. Gomez respectfully declined the opportunity to address the Board.

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the next public participant, Joyce Ortel, to address the Board. Ms. Ortel did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there were no other public participants registered to address the Board via email.

Mrs. Chevres asked if any Board members had comments or questions. Hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres-8

Negative: None

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