

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 5, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 5, 2018 at 5:30 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 5:50 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 1, 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, New Jersey.

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this March 5, 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. 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 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 (arr. 6:00 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 7

Absent: Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and members of the public were in attendance.

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. 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 public participants signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Carvalho closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Carvalho stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we will go tab by tab and each Board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Transportation Michael Rijo, Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Acting Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes, Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez, Director of Special Projects Dorothy Hannigan-McMullen, and Purchasing Agent Mario Rodrigues. The Board reviewed the agenda for the March 15, 2018 regular meeting.

Minutes of the Meetings of February 13 and 22, 2018
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for the Month of January 2018

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Minutes of the Meetings of February 13 and 22, 2018 and the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for the Month of January 2018 to the agenda.

Personnel Report
Supplemental Personnel Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta speak about the Personnel Report.

Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta gave a synopsis of the report.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the process for hiring a painter and plumber.

Mr. Cuesta stated that the positions were advertised, applications reviewed, and the recommendation came from the Plant and Property Department.

Ms. Bathelus requested a copy of the advertisement.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are required to go through the Painters’ Union for this.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the principal coaches.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it will be on Saturday and afterschool. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they will be in their own school during school time.

Mr. Jacobs asked why a transfer is being made with no replacement in place.

Mr. Williams stated that we can discuss this generally and any specifics should be left for another meeting.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the transfer is due to the program being moved to another location.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Personnel Report and Supplemental Personnel Report to the agenda.

Tuition Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Tuition Report to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the waiver of fees.

Mr. Kennedy explained that the administration recommends the waiver of facility fees for the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities. Mr. Kennedy stated that it is up to the Board whether the fees are waived or not. Mr. Kennedy stated that there are no waiver of fees for the Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she is adding the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities to the agenda with a waiver of fees.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno to speak about the requests for field trips.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno stated that there are 66 trips requested of which 21 are for high schools. Mrs. Cedeno stated that 12 trips are to visit colleges, 30 to museums and enrichments, 10 for competitions, 11 are interschool visits, and 3 are events.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that we have a lot of college visits and requested a list of the schools they are going to visit.

Ms. Bathelus asked why School No. 9 was accepted to go to the Memphis Show but School No. 6 was not on the list.

Mrs. Cedeno explained that the requests are still coming in.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she doesn't see all the schools and asked if the principals don't apply.

Mrs. Cedenó explained that all schools have field trips. Mrs. Cedenó stated that some schools do the field trip requests in batches and others do them earlier in the year.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a summary report will be provided showing the schools and number of field trips.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Director of Transportation Michael Rijo how many trips are afforded to our children so they don't have to pay for the bus.

Director of Transportation Michael Rijo stated that he will provide the information.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

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

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenó speak about the grant program.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenó stated that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is sponsoring a school grant program, *Union County Kids Dig In!* to fund school gardens. Mrs. Cedenó stated that the grant is available for Pre-K through 12th grade schools and is aimed at promoting garden-based education for children.

Miss Goncalves asked if the schools can still apply.

Mrs. Cedenó responded yes.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she is disappointed that some schools didn't apply and asked what will happen to their gardens.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that five schools have submitted reapplication for the grant program.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the independent study for a student.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that item has been removed from the agenda. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the need for independent study for students.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the Non-Public Schools Nursing Services.

Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez explained that the nursing services are provided for Elizabeth students who are attending non-public schools. Mrs. Pinto-Gomez stated that IDEA provides the funding.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Special Projects Dorothy McMullen speak about the additional Title I funding.

Director of Special Projects Dorothy McMullen stated that the Title I funds are for the 2018 Title I School Improvement Award for George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 for a climate and culture coach and to implement new programs. Mrs. McMullen stated that the 2018 Title I School Improvement Award for Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy will be used for a climate and culture coach and for several programs including PARCC Intensification and APEX.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the requirements of the climate and culture coach.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the requirements of the climate and culture coach including being a social worker, psychologist, and/or guidance counselor.

Mrs. Carvalho asked how soon they will be hired.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they are in the process of hiring.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked how many students will be in the Google program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that Google Expeditions AR Pioneer Program is a pilot program for 25 to 30 students at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is another initiative from working with NJIT and they will provide a presentation to the Board.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the partnership with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is a two-year collaboration agreement and grant program that assists with homeless students and will be handled through our homeless liaison, Vito Mazza. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she will provide the abstract grant information to the Board.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked about the Panasonic Leadership Program and if teachers can attend.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the cabinet and administration attend the Panasonic Foundation Leadership Associates Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the teachers attending the staff development workshops benefit directly from the onsite training at their school.

Mrs. Carvalho added the reports to the agenda.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if the cafeteria at School No. 6 is almost done.

Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto stated that this was for architecture plans and explained the process for review, changes, and then go out for bid. Mr. Couto stated that the work needs to be done when there is no need for heat or air conditioning so if it is not done before summer then it will wait until September.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if Hamilton was part of the feasibility.

Mr. Couto responded yes and the Board will decide which projects to do.

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Carvalho added the report to the agenda.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto speak about the contracts for a new classroom, new trucks, and energy management.

Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto stated that there is a contract to create a new classroom at George Washington School No. 1. Mr. Couto stated that there is a contract for 4 jeep vehicles to replace the 18-year old vehicles that we can no longer get parts for repair and a contract for a freezer truck that we are in need of before the summer comes. Mr. Couto explained the contract for Nuenergy to track and procure energy, check bills from suppliers, and manage the demand response.

Mr. Jacobs asked if we can see the previous contract and RFP for the energy service.

Mr. Couto stated that the amount fluctuates and explained the savings expected. Mr. Couto stated that there were two responses for the RFP and one was not responsive.

Miss Goncalves asked what kind of classroom is being made.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the child study team offices will be made into a kindergarten classroom.

Mr. Couto stated that there are four small offices that will be converted into a classroom.

Ms. Bathelus asked why School No. 6 is the only school getting the staff development workshops.

Director of Special Projects Dorothy McMullen stated that was the only school requesting them at this time.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the contract with CDW for St. Mary's.

Ms. McMullen stated that IDEA provides funds at non-public schools for professional development.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt speak about the three contracts for food services.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt stated that we are renewing three contracts and the vendors are maintaining the same prices as last year.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if the Cream-O-Land Dairies contracts are for milk.

Ms. Leavitt stated that the contracts are for milk and juice.

Mr. Jacobs asked about the Civil Service Commission.

Director of Operations Francisco Cuesta explained the contract for the NJ Civil Service Commission for NJ Supervisory Training Empowering Performance (NJ STEP) Program for seven days in our district.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Award of Contracts Report to the agenda.

Miscellaneous Communication

Claims List

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Miscellaneous Communication and Claims List to the agenda.

Resolution – Autism Awareness Month

Resolution – National Library Week

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

Resolution – Payment for Medical-Health Insurance Waiver

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the payments from 2010-2011 on this list.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is part of an EEA settlement agreement.

Mr. Neron asked if this was factored into the collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it has been in the contract but is not clear and there will be a joint announcement to set the parameters.

Mr. Neron asked if this was not part of the contract.

Mr. Williams stated that this was previously budgeted but grievances were filed for those who did not have a full year.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it will be charged to the budget appropriations for benefits.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if it will affect the current year.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes it will affect this year.

Mr. Williams stated that we have addressed this by compromising and pro-rating the amounts.

Mrs. Carvalho added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Mrs. Carvalho added the following to the agenda:

Lease/Purchase for Five School Busses

Energy Management

Lockdown Technology Contract

Culinary Student Internship Program

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – DA

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – MD

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – SQ

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – CS

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – BH

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – VL
Resolution – Fit for Duty – EM
Resolution – Appointment of Acting Principal
Resolution – Extension of Appointment of Acting Vice Principal
Resolution – Change in Term of Contract
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – TH
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – CF
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – AL and LG
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – Innisfree Foundation
Resolution – Approval of Superintendent Employment Contract
Confirmation of Residency Investigative Results
ESSA 2017-2018 Title I PARCC
ESSA 2017-2018 Title I APEX Program

Mrs. Carvalho stated that concludes the agenda. Mrs. Carvalho asked the Board members if they had any questions.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that March 14th is National School Walkout and asked how the Superintendent is planning on addressing the community, how will you be prepared for that specific day, and how will you be communicating with parents.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have had multiple discussions with our high school principals and our assistant superintendents. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated she would like our Board President to speak about the events for that particular day and she will answer any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that in response to the tragic events in Parkland, Florida that took place on February 14th as well as many other events like this that have happened at schools in recent years, students throughout the country are planning to stage walkouts in protest of the current state of affairs related to gun and school safety policies. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the district holds the position that by walking out of school the students are not only creating an interruption to their education but also creating a threat to their safety as well as the safety of our staff members while attempting to express themselves in a way that may serve more to diminish the message they want to communicate. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we understand and share the frustration they have in witnessing these terrible, life-altering events and we believe that they should be given a forum to let their voices be heard. Mrs. Carvalho stated that unfortunately, the voices that are often lost in the discussion about the issue of school safety are from those whom we wish to protect most and perhaps have the most important viewpoint, our students. Mrs. Carvalho stated that as we have recently witnessed and learned from the actions of students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School following the tragic events that took place at their school, students have a unique and important voice in this dialogue and it is imperative that we listen. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we believe the best solution is to provide forums in which students can let their voices be heard while maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all those at our school buildings. Mrs. Carvalho stated that on March 14th at 10:00 a.m. the district has arranged for elected officials to hold town hall sessions at each of our seven high schools in which they will speak to students about the current issues pertaining to school safety and allow students to ask questions and share comments pertaining to these vital issues. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we believe allowing our students with this platform to express their views on school safety provides them a safe forum as well as a direct path to have their voices heard by the men and women who are enforcing and enacting the laws pertaining to this issue.

Mr. Neron asked what happens when the students walk out on this day.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are coordinating with the Elizabeth Police Department through the efforts of Director of Security Matthew Glackin and our Lead Investigator Tomas Escribano. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are very much aware of what could potentially occur

with what she believes to be a very small percentage of our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she has to give credit to our student government in all of our high schools who have taken the time to meet with students in their respective high schools and to discuss what this day is going to look like. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she was incredibly pleased to hear that it was going to be a coordinated effort to ensure that there is an opportunity for their voices to be heard through assemblies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with the coordination of the Elizabeth Police Department we have identified specific parameters around each high school for students should they choose to walk out which we are not encouraging. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that student government has stated in all the high schools that a walkout is not an option because they fear what potentially may happen being outside of their school and they will be inside their school which is the safest place they can be. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that, however, if they choose to walkout the students will not be allowed outside of the parameters. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our goal is to ensure the safety of our students and we believe that having these listening sessions is a tremendous opportunity for our students to express their voices and be able to share what matters most to them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the intent is to have various representatives of City government attending each of these assemblies so that they are aware of what matters most to our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we believe these coordinated efforts will be successful and we are looking forward to March 14th.

Mr. Neron asked if we have a schedule of the programs we put in place for the day.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are going to have a schedule with regard to the various assemblies and times. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at this present time we are working on the communication to parents and we want to ensure the parents are well informed with regard to the activities that each high school has designed for March 14th. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that is the first step and we will be sharing that communication with the Board so that everyone is aware of what is taking place on that day.

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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

Negative: None

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