

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

April 16, 2015
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on April 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Ana Maria Amin presented the following statement at 7:45 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Monday, April 13, 2015. 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 and to our television viewers to this April 16, 2015 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 one hour prior to the advertised 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Trujillo introduced Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky from Bris Avrohom who gave the invocation.

Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky stated that today, April 16th, is Yom HaShoah which is a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust. Rabbi Mordechai Kanelsky lit a candle in memory of the six million people and especially the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust.

Resolution – Holocaust Day of Remembrance
Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Joshua Morillo, eighth grade student at Robert Morris School No. 18.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed on the tenor saxophone by Eduardo Sant'Anna, seventh grade student at Robert Morris School No. 18 and accompanied on piano by music teacher Mr. Dmitri Kochtcheev.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Giselle Pasco, eighth grade student at Robert Morris School No. 18.

Mrs. Amin introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students in the Robert Morris School No. 18 Band "The Owls" who performed *Riptide* by Vance Joy and *Hey Ho* by the Lumineers. Mrs. Castillo thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized fourth grade students Rafael Alzate and Lithcy Berrocal from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 who were selected as winners in the Union County Dental Society Poster Contest. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized Renee Drummond, Elizabeth High Schools Drama and Public Speaking Teacher and Forensics Team Coach, as a Star of Excellence for earning the Diamond Degree Award in the National Speech and Debate Association's Honor Society. Mr. Neron stated that coaches are recognized for their hard work and expertise in the Honor Society and earn 10% of the points recorded for their students. Mr. Neron stated that coaches earn the same milestones as students until they earn 1,000 points and the Donus Roberts Quad Ruby Coach Award and once they earn 1,500 points and have been coaching for at least five years they will receive their first Diamond Degree Award. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated Renee Drummond and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized Miguel Arenas, security guard, and MaryLou Arnaud, school nurse, from Robert Morris School No. 18 who provided first aid to a parent whose life was saved thanks to their fast response and expertise administering first aid in a critical situation while awaiting emergency personnel to arrive and successfully care for the parent. Mr. Monteiro and Board members thanked Miguel Arenas and MaryLou Arnaud and presented each with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Trujillo recognized staff from Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 and George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 who provided a fast response and expertise administering first aid for an ill student while awaiting emergency personnel to arrive and successfully care for the student. Mr. Trujillo introduced Vice Principal Christine Casserly, school nurse Martha Concepcion, and teachers Rahsen Barber, Justine McConkey, Lacey McConkey, and Jeannette Martinez from Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 and Althea Hollis, school nurse from George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1. Mr. Trujillo

and Board members thanked the staff members and presented each with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Perreira stated that we are continuing our new initiative the Most Valuable Parent (MVP) award to publicly honor parents whose actions including contributions to the school community symbolize the finest traditions of parenting. Mr. Perreira recognized the parents for going above and beyond the call of duty, not only for the work they do for their own children, but also for the dedication and commitment they demonstrate for their respective school community. Mr. Perreira and Mrs. Amin recognized the Most Valuable Parents (MVPs) from Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 Milagro Infante, Xiomara Gomez, and Judith Rodriguez. Mr. Perreira and Mrs. Amin recognized the Most Valuable Parents (MVPs) from George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 Carl Wells, Carolyn Hughes, Fuquan Moore and Tasleema Daniels. Mrs. Amin, Mr. Perreira, and Board members congratulated the parents and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Superintendent of School Olga Hugelmeyer introduced Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen to present a special report for our school community on Autism.

Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen introduced supervisors of special services Michael Burke and Valerie Dunn and stated that they are presenting information on our programs and services for children with autism. Mrs. McMullen stated that our vision is that the Elizabeth Public Schools will be one of the best in the nation. Mrs. McMullen stated that the division of special services is striving to continue to enhance services for our children with special needs.

Mrs. McMullen stated that autism is a developmental disability that is caused by differences in how the brain functions. Mrs. McMullen stated that people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) typically have symptoms early in life and will usually have symptoms throughout their lives. Mrs. McMullen stated that the term “spectrum” is used because the way ASD affects each person varies widely from mildly to severely disabling. Mrs. McMullen stated that ASD is characterized by difficulties in communication, interacting, behaving, and learning. Mrs. McMullen stated that some students whose ASD affects them mildly will have difficulty with social communication such as initiating and sustaining conversations with both peers and adults and may not respond to social situations in a way that is socially acceptable or common. Mrs. McMullen stated that these students may appear to not be interested in social interactions but they do desire friendships and need assistance in learning how to develop these relationships. Mrs. McMullen stated that students with more moderate symptoms may require more daily educational support and have difficulties with social communication and may be limited in their ability to verbally communicate their needs and wants. Mrs. McMullen stated that these students may also engage in repetitive behaviors, may have a very limited amount of activities they will engage in and if they are directed away from their preferred activity they can become very anxious and upset. Mrs. McMullen stated that students with severe symptoms often require substantial educational support and are typically non-verbal, may not be able to communicate their needs and wants in any way, may engage in repetitive behaviors for large portions of the day, and it can be very challenging to engage these students in any non-preferred activity.

Mrs. McMullen stated that Rutgers – New Jersey Medical School is conducting the New Jersey Autism Study in four New Jersey counties including Union, Essex, Hudson, and Ocean and the Elizabeth Public Schools has been an active participant in the study. Mrs. McMullen stated that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) most recent national data an average of 1 in 68 individuals have Autism Spectrum Disorder and is roughly 30% higher than the estimate for 2008 when it was 1 in 88. Mrs. McMullen stated that boys were almost 5 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls and the reason for this increase across the nation is not known. Mrs. McMullen stated that New Jersey’s rate of Autism Spectrum Disorder as described by the New Jersey Autism Study (NJAS) appears to be the highest rate of autism in the nation and is estimated to be 1 in 45 individuals. Mrs. McMullen stated that there

are some distinct signs and symptoms of ASD which may include but are not limited to not responding to his or her name by 12 months of age; getting upset by minor changes in routine; avoiding eye contact and wanting to be alone; delayed speech and language skills; and repeating words or phrases over and over. Mrs. McMullen stated that the district strives to ensure any child with a potential disability is identified and evaluated. Mrs. McMullen stated that if a parent or guardian notices that their child is exhibiting any of the signs or symptoms of ASD or has difficulty in sitting, standing, walking, talking, and/or learning, then please reach out to the division of special services for assistance.

Supervisor of Special Services Michael Burke stated that according to New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:14, autism falls under one of the 14 eligibility categories for special education and related services. Mr. Burke stated that this educational classification requires an assessment by a speech language specialist and a physician trained in neurodevelopmental assessments. Mr. Burke stated that a student with autism must also have an educational need for specialized instruction in order to receive their education before they are eligible for special education and related services. Mr. Burke stated that students who meet this criteria are entitled to and provided with individualized educational programming and related services under IDEA and students with autism who do not require specialized instruction can often be assisted through a Section 504 modification/accommodation plan. Mr. Burke stated that in Elizabeth as our student body population has grown so has the rate of autism classifications and the programming offered for these students.

Mr. Burke stated that in 2010, 82 students classified under the federal category of autism were educated in-district and at that time there were 5 self-contained autism classrooms and 5 teachers. Mr. Burke stated that in 2011, 106 students classified under the federal category of autism were educated in-district; in 2012, 125 students classified under the federal category of autism were educated in-district; in 2013, 135 students classified under the federal category of autism were educated in-district; and in 2014, 168 students classified under the federal category of autism were educated in-district based on the October 15th annual application for state school aid data. Mr. Burke stated that currently there are 9 self-contained autism classrooms and 9 teachers. Mr. Burke stated that since the 2011-2012 school year the district has opened 4 new classrooms and this program has expanded from elementary level grades only to include middle school. Mr. Burke stated that consistently through the past 5 years our in-district numbers have increased and the out-of-district numbers have remained consistent. Mr. Burke stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools program is based on the applied behavior analysis method, also known as ABA, which is the science that involves using modern behavior learning theory to modify behaviors and is used through alignment to the core curriculum whenever appropriate for the individual student. Mr. Burke stated that all program components are individualized for each student depending on their specific strengths, weaknesses, and educational needs.

Mr. Burke stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools Autism Program provides services and supports within a nurturing climate within the least restrictive environment, providing students with the opportunity to interact with their non-disabled peers. Mr. Burke stated that we also have a preschool disabled program for students ages 3-5 and a few classrooms are specifically developed for preschool students with autism where we maintain a maximum of 8 students per classroom to the extent possible. Mr. Burke stated that the program can occur across settings with individually identified objectives guiding developmentally appropriate activities.

Mr. Burke stated that each student in the autism program is evaluated so that we know where they are starting from academically, behaviorally, and socially so that we can set appropriate and individualized goals for student growth and knowing where a student starts from is the only way to realize gains. Mr. Burke stated that data collection is utilized to monitor and ensure progress for each student and our overarching instructional methods emphasize the use of naturally occurring reinforces (rewards); promote high rates of successful performance; encourage communications and social interaction; and encourage the spontaneous use of learned skills in different settings. Mr. Burke stated that New Jersey Administrative Code requires that an autism program maintain a student to staff ratio of 3:1.

Mr. Burke stated that the EPS curriculum is aligned to the Common Core Standards. Mr. Burke stated that we offer the following programs including The Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia (ACE), Rethink, and The Uncommon Thread. Mr. Burke stated that the Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia is designed to provide teachers, administrators, and other school professionals with ease access to applied behavior analytic procedures and an effective and efficient way to aggregate and understand student performance data. Mr. Burke stated that Rethink is a research-based program model for supporting students with disabilities in self-contained settings and within the general education setting. Mr. Burke stated that Rethink's dynamic online solution includes a comprehensive video-based curriculum, online activities for students, job-embedded professional development and parent training modules, individualized assessment and mobile progress monitoring tools, behavior intervention planning and an IEP Builder all developed by nationally recognized experts in the field. Mr. Burke stated that Rethink also offers data-based reports for school and district leaders to automatically monitor progress with LRE Goals. Mr. Burke stated that The Uncommon Thread provides the Elizabeth Public Schools with all the tools and services necessary to build and maintain a quality ABA program so that it meets the needs of their learning disabled population in the least restrictive environment. Mr. Burke stated that in addition The Uncommon Thread offers districts the following individual components to expand the capacity of their existing program and/or fill any voids including functional behavior assessments, behavior support plans, in-home supplemental services, parent training, and staff training.

Mr. Burke stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools uses several different programs to collect data on student achievement depending on the specific program and/or IEP of the student. Rethink, rolling benchmarks for specific students, and state testing for specific students are among the programs utilized. Mr. Burke stated that there are resources available for further information including the New England Center for Children (www.necc.org), National Center on Birth Defect and Developmental Disabilities Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/addm), The Uncommon Thread (www.theuncommonthread.org), New Jersey Department of Education (www.nj.gov/education/specialed/autism), and Kean University Center for Autism Assessment and Research Services.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen and Supervisor of Special Services Michael Burke for their informative report on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Board President Amin 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."

Mrs. Amin called upon the first public participant, Stephanie Goncalves, to address the Board.

Stephanie Goncalves, 202 Marshall Street, spoke about the broadcasting of meetings.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Rosa Moreno, to address the Board.

Rosa Moreno, 17 Clover Street, stated that the community and teachers need to work together all through the State.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Pia Carbajal, to address the Board.

Pia Carbajal, 19 DeHart Place Avenue, spoke about the importance of education and that parents need to work with their children and their teachers.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Peter Crickellas, to address the Board.

Peter Crickellas, science teacher, spoke about the pressure on students for testing.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Patricia Gallante, 750 Grier Avenue, thanked the Board for having the public speaking early and requested the public speaking portion be held at the beginning of the meeting.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Jon Lippi, to address the Board.

Jon Lippi, social studies teacher, commended the students' performances tonight. Mr. Lippi stated that false information is being spread about the budget and spoke in support of the budget.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special education and substitute staffing services.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Wendy Reina, to address the Board.

Wendy Reina, 189 Keats Avenue, spoke about community relations.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Rose Carreto, to address the Board.

Rose Carreto, Elizabeth Education Association President, spoke in support of the budget and the many accomplishments of the district including the national ranking of Elizabeth High School, 497 perfect scores on the NJASK, full day prekindergarten program, and successes in all schools.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Danette Torres, to address the Board.

Danette Torres, 539 Grier Avenue, spoke about substitute staffing services, requests for public records, and testing.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Joseph Cortico, to address the Board.

Joseph Cortico, Elizabeth Education Association Vice President, stated that he is very proud of our schools and spoke in support of the budget.

Mrs. Amin thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Amin called upon the next public participant, Marie Munn, to address the Board.

Marie Munn, 8 Country Club Lane, commended the Board members for staying the course and they should continue the progress.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Amin declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mrs. Amin asked New Jersey State Police Officer Renato Cruz to speak.

New Jersey State Police Officer Renato Cruz stated that he was a teacher in the Elizabeth Public Schools prior to becoming a State Police Officer and his roots are in Elizabeth. Mr. Cruz stated that he is involved in the Elizabeth Public Schools with anti-bullying campaigns, coat drive, and other causes. Mr. Cruz stated that tonight he is here to support Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 with a book fair being held at a local book store with purchases being donated to the school. Mr. Cruz thanked the Board for the opportunity to announce the book fair to support Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9.

Mrs. Amin thanked Renato Cruz for all he does for the children of the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Ms. Bathelus stated that the public speaking portion should be at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Bathelus asked why we are no longer main streaming live and what is the cost.

Mr. Kennedy stated there was a concern in reviewing the overtime in the technology budget and this was the suggestion of the technology director.

Ms. Bathelus stated that they are still sitting here videotaping. Ms. Bathelus stated that if we are not going to be streaming then they shouldn't be sitting here videotaping and you are still paying them.

Mr. Kennedy explained that the videotaping is so that it subsequently gets sent to Cablevision and that is where the video is available.

Ms. Bathelus stated that if it is because of cost that means that you put together a number and you know what the cost is.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it can certainly be revisited. Mr. Kennedy stated that there was a concern with what we are up against with the budget remaining to finish out the year in the technology department and that was the suggestion the coordinator gave him.

Ms. Bathelus asked who made the decision to stop streaming.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it was a reaction to his request to look at our overtime costs and what we have to go for the end of the year and that was the suggestion.

Ms. Bathelus stated that as a Board member she feels disrespected when she doesn't know what is happening and she comes here and sits here and people are telling her and texting her that it is not online. Ms. Bathelus stated that as a Board member she should have known prior to being here. Ms. Bathelus stated that this is something that has been a pattern over and over again where they are constantly disrespected. Ms. Bathelus stated that she is sure that there are

other Board members who are sitting here who know about it but she didn't know about it, she didn't think Maria, Stan, or Jose knew about it. Ms. Bathelus stated that she didn't think that the Superintendent knew either because when she brought it to her attention she did not know. Ms. Bathelus stated that if that is something that is going to happen they need to know that prior and we as a Board need to discuss that. Ms. Bathelus stated that they sit there and say ok, fine but then you never do it and still disrespect us month after month after month.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there is certainly no disrespect to Ms. Bathelus or any Board member in any actions. Mr. Kennedy stated that it was a just a reaction to budgetary concerns.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she feels some of the members of the cabinet are very disrespectful to the Board members. Ms. Bathelus stated that it is something that we need to discuss further. Ms. Bathelus responded to Maria who said she doesn't get any responses to her emails and stated that she sends emails as a Board member and doesn't get responses as well.

Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately we are up against a tough budget and it's become the norm. Mr. Trujillo stated that education is very expensive and that's not a secret. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is going to be his eighth budget and it's never an easy decision and they are always tough. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has always supported the teachers and the staff because without them nothing really happens in the classroom. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is very important. Mr. Trujillo stated that he finds it disheartening when he hears the criticisms of the budget when what we are trying to do is hire teachers and trying to create services. Mr. Trujillo stated that he understands the concerns of the legal fees and he hears everyone. Mr. Trujillo stated that he also knows and sees where they are going and it has always been a frustration for them. Mr. Trujillo stated that anytime we take money out of the classroom to do anything else, that is our priority and the classroom is where the magic happens. Mr. Trujillo stated that the classroom is where the child and the teacher bond and where the service is offered and that is the key. Mr. Trujillo stated that the other stuff is supportive. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is an unfortunate reality in a district this size and in a political atmosphere that is created in a City like Elizabeth that there are many frivolous lawsuits that get filed and we find ourselves having to defend the school system. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are not suing him personally or any members of the Board of Education we are actually indemnified in these lawsuits and they get costly. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is a taxpayer, he is a parent, and he feels it. Mr. Trujillo stated that any time he hears the Mayor of his City come out and say he is against the budget he is really concerned about that. Mr. Trujillo stated that the budget actually supports teachers and puts teachers in the classroom. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is concerned because it is being disingenuous and is an attack on the children of our schools. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Mayor does not use our school system. Mr. Trujillo stated that he does use our school system and for him it is personal and these are our children who go to these schools and have a right to these services. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Mayor has the right to an opinion but he would just ask that the Mayor keep on the facts and not try to discredit with smoke and mirrors and lies. Mr. Trujillo stated that he makes up these arbitrary numbers and pulls them out of the air to scare the public. Mr. Trujillo stated that in reality the numbers don't lie and we have a history and we have tracked it. Mr. Trujillo stated that the animosity has been going on for so long and every year around the same time, the budget time, the Mayor just starts to lie and starts to scare people. Mr. Trujillo stated that he sends his employees here to dress up in wigs and act the fool and it happens every year and it is sad because it is an attack on our school district.

The Board went into recess at 9:42 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public session at 10:02 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the public speakers for coming out to speak and signing up. Mr. Rodriguez stated that on Saturday, April 25th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 17 Broad Street near the County Courthouse they are giving out free prom dresses, purses, and shoes. Mr. Rodriguez thanked New Jersey State Trooper Cruz for all he has done for this district and also for the

fundraiser for School No. 9. Mr. Rodriguez responded to Ms. Gallante brought up a good point that you need to sign up for public speaking at 6:00 p.m. and the agenda comes out at the same time so if you want to speak on an agenda item he doesn't think you would have the time to read the agenda and still make a comment. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we will discuss that.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that there are some issues with the budget and according to the budget figures that they received there is only a net gain of two teachers so we have the proposed budget reducing some teachers, trying to fill some vacancies that we've had for years so the budget actually is only going to increase two teachers. Mr. Rodriguez stated that by saying that this budget overall is going to increase teachers by a large sum is a misrepresentation. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he personally voted no to send the budget to the County Superintendent but he believes there is a lot of other places that we can find money and that we can hire more teachers than two. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we need a lot more teachers especially because our enrollment is going up close to 1,000. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he doesn't think two teachers would cover that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he agrees that none of us want to lose services. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we need every single dollar we can get and we know that every school district in the State is starving for funds thanks to not only the current governor but sadly, governors from both parties cut and cut and there haven't been many governors that actually added to the school funding formula and we all know that we need every dollar possible. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the biggest issues that he had was the legal fees and if we look at the budget from last year to this year we have doubled our legal fees. Mr. Rodriguez stated that almost every single category we actually reduced and we cut and our per pupil instructional cost has gone down, administration costs have gone down, and many things have gone down, good and bad. Mr. Rodriguez stated the one thing that has doubled is our legal fees which is concerning. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is not saying that we don't need lawyers, the district this size does but to not have some kind investigation or deeper look into how much money we spend on legal services is dangerous and reckless. Mr. Rodriguez stated that to at least look if we can cut back on that and he has asked for that and all he has gotten back was scowls and angry faces and comments. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are just looking to share the burden across all departments not just a few. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he wanted to dispel some of the rumors that they said no to the budget and we are not pro-teacher. Mr. Rodriguez stated that is ridiculous and he is a teacher and a proud union member and to him cutting teachers or cutting staff or cutting programs along with everybody here they are not in agreement. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this budget only adds two teachers.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she wants to let the public know how she feels about the budget and that she respects the EEA. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she was a student at Elizabeth High School, is a parent, and a taxpayer in Elizabeth. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she does not support the budget but she also does not support cutting teachers and staff. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she ran a really clean campaign and promised the parents of the special needs that she would help them and she promised the teachers that she would help them. Mrs. Carvalho stated that for all of you sitting out there who think that she doesn't care they are sadly mistaken because she is here to work for them. Mrs. Carvalho stated that anyone can call her and stated that many of you have called and asked questions. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she is here to work for you and she is not here to lay you off or privatize your jobs. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she voted no for the budget because she feels there are things in that budget that they can cut other than services to our children.

Mr. Monteiro thanked EEA President Rose Carreto and Vice President Joe Cortico for speaking on behalf of their members. Mr. Monteiro stated that the May 7th public hearing will be important because from what they are hearing tonight there may not be enough votes to carry this budget through and it would be very unfortunate for the district and he hopes that is not the case. Mr. Monteiro stated that he hopes that the EEA members are here in force to express their views and their thoughts on the budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is hard to have it both ways. Mr. Monteiro stated that \$38 million dollars was cut from this budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that all the Board members here had the opportunity to meet with the finance committee. Mr. Monteiro

thanked Board member Paul Perreira, the members of the finance committee, Superintendent Hugelmeyer and her team who spent countless hours, aside from meetings here, in the finance committee meetings going over the budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is the most difficult thing to do and the two most important things that boards do is to pick a superintendent and vote on the budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that for Paul Perreira and his team on the finance committee it is never easy when you have the Governor flat funding the district. Mr. Monteiro stated that flat funding doesn't sound bad, they are going to give you the same amount of money they gave you last year. Mr. Monteiro stated that what people don't recognize is that the teachers, support staff, secretaries, custodians, and security guards have a contract and in that contract there was a rate increase, a well-deserved pay increase, and that increase alone can amount to several million dollars. Mr. Monteiro stated that when you get flat funded by the Governor in Trenton and they say they are giving you the same amount of money that they gave you last year then automatically that puts us in a hole several million dollars for all the contracts for the teachers and support staff who do a wonderful job. Mr. Monteiro stated that automatically we are in a hole, then you add on top of that insurance, the cost of pensions, and the cost of inflation that goes along with it. Mr. Monteiro stated so we are \$38 million in a hole and it's easy to say we are just going to cut.

Mr. Monteiro stated that every Board member had the opportunity to sit with the Superintendent, with Mr. Kennedy, and with the entire team to go over what those cuts are and to make those suggestions. Mr. Monteiro stated that it's easy to say we are just going to cut legal and asked exactly what are you cutting \$2 million. Mr. Monteiro stated that let's go further and let's cut a couple of positions and we don't really need this position or that position and so you find another million dollars. Mr. Monteiro stated so you saved about \$3 million and asked where the other \$35 million is going to come from. Mr. Monteiro stated that all of these cuts are very, very difficult to make and what makes the matter even worse and we like to take the politics out of it but that's not reality and by the time we leave here tonight he is sure the Mayor is already tweeting on his account about we're overspending or mismanaging and it is wrong and it is unfair. Mr. Monteiro stated that this Board has managed the district better than most school systems in the State of New Jersey and there is a banner right in front that says 25 cents of every one of your dollars that goes into the City of Elizabeth for property taxes, only 25 cents of that dollar goes to the Elizabeth Public School system. Mr. Monteiro stated that some people might say that is already too much. Mr. Monteiro stated that if you go to all the towns around, most towns are higher, he believes Linden is 46 cents, Union is 48 cents and we will have those correct numbers and he doesn't want to be misrepresenting them. Mr. Monteiro stated that most towns in the State of New Jersey the board of education budgets are close to 50% and then you add the county portion and the municipality probably has 30% or 40% to work with. Mr. Monteiro stated that in this City the Mayor and City Hall have 60% to almost 70% of every tax dollar and we only have 25 cents. Mr. Monteiro stated that let's start with the facts and that is what is important. Mr. Monteiro stated that no one wants to raise taxes and that is the reality. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is born and raised here and has several properties in Elizabeth, is a taxpayer and knows that pain and he understands it. Mr. Monteiro stated that, as Rose Carreto stated, this is the best urban school district and on its way to becoming the top school district in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that all of us already know the accomplishments and achievements here, 3 National Blue Ribbon Schools here in this City and more than any other city in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro asked how many people remember what the public school systems were 15 years ago. Mr. Monteiro stated that he was a councilman in 1994 and for eight years our single biggest problem was that good families were leaving the City of Elizabeth because they would not continue to send their children to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are not a perfect school system but it is offensive and disgraceful to all the hardworking members of this district and their families that work so hard. Mr. Monteiro stated that in this budget we are even trying to allocate a possible pay raise for all of the staff members that now may be in jeopardy if this budget doesn't pass so you are telling all of the staff in this district that they are not deserving of an incremental pay raise at all if this budget doesn't pass. Mr. Monteiro stated that there is a lot at stake. Mr. Monteiro stated that throughout the past many years many of you have been an integral part of this continue the progress team and collectively we have

moved this district forward successfully more than any other urban city in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that some of you may not recognize that all of the large urban districts above us, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, and below us Camden and Trenton have all been taken over by the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro asked what our problem is and stated that many of you saw it on January 7th at our reorganization meeting that the power brokers of this City wanted to take back the Board of Education and we are not going to hide from it. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mayor Bollwage was here screaming on the side inciting the crowd and Senator Lesniak was in the front row. Mr. Monteiro stated that isn't it ironic that one of the most powerful State Senators in the State of New Jersey never steps foot in our schools other than on reorganization day and doesn't sit down in Trenton and praise the accomplishments and achievements of what is going on here. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is like the diamond on the hill and what a great public school district that should be praised and recognized and possibly replicated throughout the country. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is not saying we are perfect but why not come and see some of the things we are doing right and talk about it and why knock the things we are not doing right all the time, the few that they may be. Mr. Monteiro stated that he respects the right for public speaking but remember we are still a district of over 26,000 students with 130,000 to 140,000 people living in the City and it's not too bad to have very few people come and speak. Mr. Monteiro stated that he wants to stay on the positive and wants to stay on the message of what this City is doing. Mr. Monteiro stated that he knows that there is a lot more work to be done but he is not running away from the facts that we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey, three National Blue Ribbon Schools, that our Elizabeth High School is ranked one of the top high schools in the country. Mr. Monteiro stated that people are no longer trying to run away and people are now trying to come in and now we are having our next problem and we are starting to find our enrollment increasing. Mr. Monteiro asked what happens when all of a sudden next year another 2,000 students enroll in our school system and where are the classrooms. Mr. Monteiro stated that if everyone hasn't noticed near School No. 30 they are building a huge apartment building with almost 120 apartments and multiply that by how many children are going to live in that building. Mr. Monteiro stated that if you look around Elizabeth it's not doing so badly with buildings going up, new two-family homes are being constructed and that is going to be new young families coming to the City of Elizabeth and we have to provide the public education so we must be doing something right. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is proud and as difficult a budget as it may be that it will have pain on both sides.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he doesn't agree with Board member Rodriguez because what he has here are the facts and it says here we are going to hire more teachers including 7 special education teachers, 1 learning disability consultant teacher, 34 bilingual/ESL teachers, 1 preschool teacher, 5 elementary education teachers, 4 math teachers, 3 science teachers, 4 social studies teachers, 1 physical education teacher, 3 English teachers, 1 engineering teacher, and 3 educational media specialists. Mr. Monteiro stated that all of this has been proposed for the 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that those are the facts and that is what we should stick to. Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for joining the fight for the future of the children of the City of Elizabeth and we can only hope that we can continue the progress and that you will stand and continue to fight with us to make us the number one school system in this country.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2015 be accepted.

Ms. Bathelus stated that there were a lot of things omitted in the minutes and asked why the public speaking portion has only a sentence of what the topic was and not what was discussed.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the minutes represent the actions and discussions of the Board and not the discussions of the public. Mr. Kennedy stated that we always say this is a meeting of the Board in public and not a meeting of the public.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she thought before there was more information during the public speaking portion in the minutes but maybe not in the last few months but maybe sometime last year or the months before that.

Mr. Kennedy stated that they reflect the topics that the public spoke about.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she doesn't have the best memory but she feels as if all of the minutes do not reflect truly what happened at the last meeting. Ms. Bathelus stated that when she gets the binder on the Monday before the meeting she normally tries to read through what happened at the last meeting and she feels that it is not a good representation of what happened at the last Board meeting. Ms. Bathelus asked if there was a way to rectify that and try to add some more information to some of the actions or some of the things that occurred at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Kennedy stated that they are not intended to be a transcript of the meeting. Mr. Kennedy stated that they are minutes of what happened at the meeting.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she understands but certain things are missing that were discussed that she remembers and to just try to do that. Ms. Bathelus stated that there is a long transcript of what Mr. Monteiro said, there is a long transcript of what Mr. Rodriguez said and if we are going to do that for certain Board members then we should do it for everyone. Ms. Bathelus stated that she is voting no because it doesn't accurately show what was said at last Board meeting.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 5

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 4

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2015

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the retirees and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.

Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we were talking about amending the Use of Facilities form and asked if it was included this month.

Mr. Kennedy explained that there is a first reading tonight.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Special Olympic Track and Field Team is taking a field trip to Carteret to practice and participate and wished them good luck.

Ms. Bathelus asked about the fee for the water baptism for the church and if we have to charge a fee.

Mr. Kennedy stated that because of the separation of church and state we have to charge fees for all religious institutions.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that her report includes highlights from InsideEPS beginning with the article *A New Day for Music Education that Ensures "Every Child Achieves"*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in lockstep with the vision and mission of the

Elizabeth Public Schools, the National Association for Music Education is celebrating the fact that, for the first time in education history, music has been recognized as a core subject in draft federal education policy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the National Association for Music Education, among the world's largest arts education organizations, is the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this organization advocates at the local, state, and national levels and it provides resources for teachers, parents, and administrators. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it hosts professional development events and offers a variety of opportunities for students and teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the National Association for Music Education orchestrates success for millions of students nationwide and has supported music educators at all teaching levels for more than a century. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on April 7th an article entitled, *A New Day for Music Education that Ensures 'Every Child Achieves'*, was published. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the article refers to the mobilization of music advocates earlier this year to send more than 10,000 letters to their lawmakers resulting in a new bipartisan Senate Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) proposal, the "Every Child Achieves Act of 2015" that retains the core academic subject section from No Child Left Behind and additionally adds "music" as a specifically enumerated core academic subject. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) announced the bipartisan agreement on fixing No Child Left Behind on April 7th. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Executive Director Chris Woodside was quoted as saying, "The benefits of listing the arts as core demonstrate the importance of recognizing our nation's education priorities at the federal level. The elimination of core academic subjects from the Senate Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) would jeopardize national efforts to ensure that all students, regardless of race or economic status, have access to high quality school music programs....music advocates....must engage with Congress to urge the inclusion of music in federal statute." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we at the Elizabeth Public Schools are proud of the accomplishment of our music department and honor the good work of all of our teachers and our supervisor, Dennis Argul. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the department has accomplished that the curriculum and program offerings have been aligned to the NJCCS 2012 Model Curriculum and National Core Arts Standards of 2014; existing partnerships with artists in residence and discussions with potential future partnerships; working with all comprehensive K-8 principals to schedule enrichment classes (band and chorus) concurrently with their intervention classes, students not in need of intervention can participate in these music ensemble classes, and it provides motivation for students; working of the language of the grading policy to include passing grades in Music, Visual Arts, World Language, and Health/Physical Education for students to be recognized as Teacher, Principal, and/or Superintendent Scholars. Mrs. Hugelmeyer quoted Dennis Argul, "My vision for the department has not wavered since my hiring in 2012. I support the district's vision whereby All Students Achieve Excellence. My perspective on this vision is that the artistic side of a student, their ability to participate in a safe, creative, and nurturing performing arts class, is equally important as their other core subjects. It is my goal that every student receives quality performing arts instruction in every school in Elizabeth, across all grade levels."

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is the transcript from the special report for our school community on Autism given earlier by Director of Special Services Dr. Dorothy McMullen and Supervisor of Special Services Michael Burke and will be available online. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked them for the presentation which has a great deal of information for our parents and community members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this concludes the InsideEPS report.

Mrs. Amin thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for her informative report.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

Mr. Rodriguez asked about the amended budget for IDEA carry over funds. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is a quarter of a million dollars in basic aid and another \$5,000. for preschool and asked if that is money that we did not use last year.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes and that is the carry-over budget.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if that money can be used to hire instructional aides or paraprofessionals.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the budget has already been struck and approved by the County Superintendent. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all carry-over budgets require County approval and the result of that carry-over is the result of a projection that is made in the Spring of the previous year with regard to what the anticipated contract costs will be. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that once the contracts come in and we match them to what was projected it then results in surplus funds which are then captured and we have an obligation to sit with the County Superintendent and present what our plan is for the use of carry-over funds. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that these are federal funds and are very tightly regulated with very strict regulations for the use of these funds and requires several layers of approval. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to propose a use of these funds we are well beyond that point at this time but she will be happy to share with the Board what the carry-over funds will be used for.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Amin – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

Mr. Neron asked what the hours are for high school and all the elementary schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated the hours for the schools.

Mr. Neron asked about the calendar.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that this is for the revised calendar for 2014-2015. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the calendar for next year will be presented at the May Board meeting.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Amin – 9

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

Ms. Bathelus asked which policy is being renewed for B.B. Miller & Co.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is accidental travel insurance.

Ms. Bathelus asked what the boundary survey is for.

Mr. Lehman explained that the Schools Development Authority has asked us to do a consolidation of four lots at the new high school being built next to Jefferson. Mr. Lehman stated that in order to file a deed of consolidation we needed a boundary survey of the land.

Ms. Bathelus asked for an explanation of the item to replenish bulk mail account.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is for our postage on our mail machine for regular postage.

Ms. Bathelus asked if that is what it cost last month and if she could see a breakdown or if there is a spreadsheet.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is a list we get from the Post Office of postage use.

Ms. Bathelus asked for a copy of it.

Ms. Bathelus asked what equipment is referred to in the power equipment contract.

Mr. Kennedy responded that he will provide the information.

Mr. Trujillo asked if the mail amount is monthly and if we have a permit.

Mr. Kennedy responded no and that it is based on usage as mail goes out and we do have a permit.

Ms. Bathelus stated that it is not monthly because she just asked if that is how much we spent last month.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is what we replenished as the meter went down.

Mrs. Carvalho asked why some are hand checks and some aren't.

Mr. Kennedy explained that some are based on the timing of when the amounts due to be paid are between meetings.

Mr. Edelstein stated that the payment of claims is by statute N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2 and Policy 3326 which gives the person designated by the Board to do so to pay the claims between meetings and do so by policy and then report the fact that he has done so to the Board.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he totaled the legal fees for this month because that is his pet peeve. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is no mark to their professional work and he is sure they are all very good but this month it is a total of about \$434,000. Mr. Rodriguez stated that this puts us on pace if we are to average that it is about \$6 million a year. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he doesn't know how we can't at least go in and look at how cut back somehow. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he knows he is not on the legal committee but urged the legal committee to give some kind of update or something to show us some kind of help, some kind of plan, and there has to be a better way. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it can't be just pay, pay, pay without at least looking and we owe the taxpayers. Mr. Rodriguez stated that in his house he is looking at \$400 next year and he would like to be able to know we attempted to try to cut back. Mr. Rodriguez stated that no offense to Mr. Edelstein and he knows he does great work and he is one of the top law firms in the State for school law. Mr. Rodriguez stated that his bill is about \$300,000. this month and he said he charges no more than \$165. an hour so that breaks down to about 1,842 hours of work in one month.

Mr. Edelstein stated that we have about 300 open cases so that is about \$1,000. of work on each of the cases. Mr. Edelstein stated that when you are doing arbitrations, litigations, answering difficult questions to do seven or eight hours on that during the month would not be unusual or unreasonable at all. Mr. Edelstein stated that the fact of the matter is that it doesn't break out that easily at all because some of the cases are very simple and we dispose of them quickly and some are extremely complicated and take a lot more work. Mr. Edelstein stated that is the volume of cases that we are talking about.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his law firm does great work and he comes highly recommended. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it breaks down to almost 460 hours per week just for his law firm and that is having 11 people working more than 40 hours per week. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it brings back to the point that he just keeps getting ignored and if the legal committee could just please see or find a way and there has to be a better way. Mr. Rodriguez stated especially with the tight budget and try to save something.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he understands Mr. Rodriguez's concern with the legal fees but it has become an obsession and that is all he talks about and he is not campaigning anymore. Mr. Trujillo stated that the reality is that you have been elected for over a year and this is your first budget and now it is time to step up to the plate.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is his second budget.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is even a bigger deal and it is time now that you know what you are doing and not actually just offer criticism but you have to offer ways to fix the problem. Mr. Trujillo stated that all Mr. Rodriguez keeps harping on is a number but doesn't know how to get it down and he really doesn't have any solutions for us. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez should have some respect for the rest of his colleagues and we understand his position, the public understands his position, and it's been his position for over a year and a half now and that's all he talks about. Mr. Trujillo stated that when he finally had the opportunity and you thought you had a majority on this Board Mr. Rodriguez's first action as a Board member at the reorganization meeting was to fire attorneys and hire a whole bunch of other attorneys. Mr. Trujillo asked if Mr. Rodriguez was going to lead us to believe that those attorneys were going to work for free and asked do they not get paid. Mr. Trujillo asked why Mr. Rodriguez would want to hire six other law firms. Mr. Trujillo stated that he will tell you why because Senator Lesniak was sitting right next to Chris Bollwage who was heckling and they want their piece of that \$7 million and that's what they want and let's call it what it is. Mr. Trujillo stated that let's stop with the lies. Mr. Trujillo stated that if he wants to work with him let's talk about education for our children and let's stop the lies with the \$7 million. Mr. Trujillo stated that Chris Bollwage can tell you where it's from because he loves suing the Board of Education and everybody who has ever had a slip or fall in this school district runs to Chris Bollwage and he gives them an attorney. Mr. Trujillo stated that's what happens and that is the reality so now you have it so please stop with the lies. Mr. Trujillo stated that his children go to this school and Mr. Rodriguez doesn't have any kids and doesn't know how hard it is to raise kids in this City. Mr. Trujillo stated that he understands and supports his right to have the position. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is sick and tired of sitting here all day and hearing \$7 million, \$4,000. and we know because we vote on it and we're not happy that it is that expensive. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez should not be disingenuous to think that they don't see right through him. Mr. Trujillo stated that we see right through him and to please stop already. Mr. Trujillo stated that it's month after month with the same lies and asked do you really think those attorneys were going to work for free. Mr. Trujillo stated that there were some big law firms on that list none of which have any educational experience, none of them. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are all hacks and they couldn't find one from Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that there was a bunch of law firms here, Councilman Grova's law firm was here, a ton of them and you couldn't find one from Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez should stop already with the \$7 million. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is disrespectful.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is sorry that it has become a pain to hear about trying to find ways to cut costs.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he should find a way already.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that even in the pledge of ethics it says to speak in a calm voice and respect others. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he told the President that he would love to sit on the legal committee and offer ways to fix it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was on the special ed committee and was removed. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he wasn't able to get into these committees that do the heavy lifting and he will agree that the committees do a lot of work and he would love to get his hands into that work and effect real change. Mr. Rodriguez stated that at every step they are stymied, they're blocked, kept in the dark and there is not much we can do to help. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the lawyers that we had all were cheaper, they were all cheaper. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have to find a way and he may not have kids but he has nephews that will be going into the schools next year. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is a taxpayer, like Mr. Monteiro, and his family does own other properties and we will be paying these taxes. Mr. Rodriguez stated this is his money, it is your money, and everybody else's, too. Mr. Rodriguez stated that along with other taxpayers that voted for him or not this is their money. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have to find better ways and yelling and screaming is not working. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is not blaming Mr. Trujillo. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is asking for the legal committee which he is not sure who sits on it, maybe Mr. Trujillo does, to find a way and report to them. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he has been asking for months and months and nothing after month, after month. Mr. Rodriguez stated that just because he continues to not hear his claims or complaints doesn't mean he is going to stop. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is not going to stop him because he just doesn't want to listen and he is not hear for him. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are all here for the students and for our community and we have all said it and we all know it and we are not here to collect big checks like we all know. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would love to find a better way and asked to be put on the legal committee or if you don't want to put him on the legal committee then invite him. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there are three members and he could come in as the fourth and talk. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would love to give them ideas and he just needs the opportunity. Mr. Rodriguez stated that if they are not given that opportunity and we are blocked at every moment we can't help. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are here for that and that is why we all ran and why we all tirelessly knocked on doors, all nine of us every three years. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is to help but if we are blocked then what are we to do and we have to keep pushing and keep pushing. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is taking this personally but it's not about him.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it isn't about him and Mr. Rodriguez is right that it is about everyone. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks Mr. Rodriguez is lying to the constituency when he continues to say he is blocked here, he doesn't get this, or he doesn't get that. Mr. Trujillo stated isn't true and Mr. Rodriguez gets all the same information that he gets and we all get the same thing. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez wants to play coy and wants to lie but he is not going to let him do it and is going to call him out from now on. Mr. Trujillo stated that if Mr. Rodriguez really wants to work with him, he hasn't reached out to him in the two years he has been here. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez doesn't want to work with him and only wants to do is come here and talk a good game and rally and prey on the frustrations of the public and the staff with things that they can't control sometimes and the realities of life. Mr. Trujillo stated that is what Mr. Rodriguez wants to do and that is who he has become as an elected official. Mr. Trujillo stated that whether Mr. Rodriguez has noticed it or not and he doesn't think Mr. Rodriguez has noticed it but that is who he has become. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez is like a broken record and hasn't offered anything at all. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez can say whatever he wants about being on a committee or not but Mr. Rodriguez is on this Board and Mr. Rodriguez has a voice just like he does. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez has to offer some kind of resolution and he hasn't found it yet and maybe either he doesn't know where to look or hasn't sincerely started to look. Mr. Trujillo stated that the reality is that it is really easy

to sit here and just criticize and criticize and offer no solution and he is not going to get away with it. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is really ridiculous and it's sad that the people of Elizabeth entrusted Mr. Rodriguez to come here and represent them and all Mr. Rodriguez does is harp on the same thing and has no resolutions to any of these problems and is not addressing any of them. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez keeps mentioning them and just harping on the negative. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are a lot of positive things going on in this district and a lot of great things have been going on and he has been a part of them now. Mr. Trujillo stated that instead of just sitting there and thumbing his eye in the public that voted him in Mr. Rodriguez should try to work with his colleagues. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez hasn't tried to work with him and hasn't called him for anything. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know how sincere Mr. Rodriguez is with wanting to work and solve these problems. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thinks Mr. Rodriguez is content on just reminding everyone that we are spending this and spending that and doesn't have any real resolutions to the problems. Mr. Trujillo stated that hiring all those law firms wasn't and especially people that isn't even their field of expertise. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez was just hiring more people who are just going to sit here and spend more money and steal from the taxpayers. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is glad that didn't happen. Mr. Trujillo stated that reorganization meeting by far was probably one of the best things he has seen since he has been here. Mr. Trujillo stated that the President wasn't aware they were going to fire the legal department. Mr. Trujillo stated that your idea was to fire the legal department, hire all these other attorneys, remove all the attorneys here and place other attorneys in so eventually you could file some trumped up charges against the Superintendent to have her removed and so you could have her replaced and take over the district. Mr. Trujillo stated that is what happened and we aren't stupid and people aren't stupid and we know what happened and now he is going to keep saying it. Mr. Trujillo stated that he sat here and bit his tongue and he kept quiet and he wanted to sincerely work with Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Trujillo stated that he won't do it anymore and now he is going to call him out so if you want to sit there and do this every month we'll do it until 2, 4, 5 or 6:00 in the morning if we have to. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez should be sincere with the people and doesn't want to work with the people. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez would rather sit there in his three-piece suit and just pontificate all day and just want talk about what is wrong and we should do this and we should do that. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez doesn't have any results, nothing, and no substance.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he wanted to echo some of the comments made by Mr. Trujillo. Mr. Monteiro stated that he took offense to Mr. Rodriguez commenting about the legal fees and talking about hypocrisy at its best. Mr. Monteiro stated that we talk about how high the legal fees are in Elizabeth but again you don't get the full picture. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are the fourth largest school district in the State of New Jersey with close to half a billion dollar budget, with over 4,000 employees, and 26,000 students. Mr. Monteiro stated that the City of Elizabeth also has a legal department and spends also millions in legal fees. Mr. Monteiro stated that the night Mr. Rodriguez sat up here and read that big dissertation firing the legal department on January 7th that was a pre-planned agenda that none of the Board members had seen that night and went ahead and fired the whole legal department along with secretaries and staff to be followed by a hiring of all these law firms. Mr. Monteiro stated that one of the firms to be hired, DeCotis Fitzpatrick, one of the largest law firms in the State who right now are billing at the Union County Utilities Authority that is incredulous. Mr. Monteiro stated that he will bring that information at the next meeting and read those numbers of what they are charging the Union County Utilities Authority. Mr. Monteiro stated that was the firm that Senator Ray Lesniak and Mayor Chris Bollwage was important that this Board hire, DeCotis Fitzpatrick. Mr. Monteiro stated that a firm like Mr. Edelstein's firm is one of the largest in the State that handles over 100 school boards in the State. Mr. Monteiro stated that DeCotis Fitzpatrick doesn't handle school boards or very few. Mr. Monteiro stated that what he is most upset about and taken back is when we talk about cutting back and where do we cut back. Mr. Monteiro stated that right here in this room we have a City resident, Patricia Gallante, who went ahead and filed to try to have him removed from the school board. Mr. Monteiro stated she cost the taxpayers money. Mr. Monteiro stated that here is a woman who filed this in court to for an emergent hearing to have

him removed and the judge denied the motion seeking a removal of this Elizabeth School Board member and that wasn't enough because that cost the Elizabeth School Board member a significant amount of legal fees to defend that. Mr. Monteiro stated that Board member Jose Rodriguez also asked for Board member Monteiro to be removed. Mr. Monteiro stated that Patricia Gallante amends her petition to go back into court and that is where we will go, back into court and spend more money on legal fees for frivolous, baseless, insane things that they are. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is still a Board member and will be and he was elected by the people and that is who is going to take him out if they so choose. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Rodriguez won't talk about that because they are the legal fees. Mr. Monteiro stated that you can't have it both ways. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is going to implore Ms. Carreto and all her members because if it is not loud and clear what is happening here then he doesn't know if there are going to be the votes on this Board on May 7th to approve this budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Board members are going to talk that rhetoric that they are saying all these things, well we don't want to really hurt teachers, we don't want to cut services, we want to help the special needs but they can't really vote for that budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that he hopes that Ms. Carreto's members understand and validate what is going to happen on May 7th and he hopes they pack this chamber and the Board meeting in the hundreds if not the thousands. Mr. Monteiro stated that what we face is critical to the direction and to the progress of this district and to continue the progress and it could end on May 7th, it's that simple. Mr. Monteiro stated that the rhetoric from Mr. Rodriguez and others is going to continue and it is a dog and pony show. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is hard but don't come here and say let's cut legal fees and then file these frivolous, ridiculous lawsuits that go nowhere and they are baseless and that's all they are and they are costing us. Mr. Monteiro stated that as Mr. Edelstein said there are hundreds of cases that they are working on here in this district. Mr. Monteiro stated that they have them in City Hall, too in case anyone is wondering and City Hall isn't without their legal problems either. Mr. Monteiro stated that he hopes they come out and support this budget because clearly you're going to need to show that support on May 7th.

Mr. Neron stated that he came to serve and do the work of what public servants do and he thinks everyone sits up here to do that. Mr. Neron stated that there is something that we do at the top of this meeting, the Pledge of Ethics. Mr. Neron stated that if we are going to lead by example as leaders of this district and our Superintendent stands behind that and he thought everybody stood behind that but maybe not. Mr. Neron stated that he thought we were going to first understand, listen, speak in a calm manner, inspire others, care and just be a lifelong learner learning from each other. Mr. Neron stated that he doesn't understand how we are able to learn from each other when you are going to scream, when you are going to talk about the way people vote, the way people make decisions, if anything that is an act of bullying coming from Board members to other Board members. Mr. Neron stated that when you are talking to other people in the community or as a leader you stand here and talk about people when they come up to make public comment and refer to them in derogatory manners and it is unfair and unjust and really needs to stop. Mr. Neron stated that if you are going to lead then just lead and it is okay that we have our differences and that's fine and it's okay that we disagree. Mr. Neron stated that he made his statement last meeting to talk about the reasons why we voted the way we voted on the budget and not because we are not against education, we are not against teachers, we are not against programs or services, and the Superintendent gets all our phone calls about our concerns with programs we want to implement in this community. Mr. Neron stated that he is sure all Board members get all the phone calls from parents of issues that they are having in the community. Mr. Neron stated to the EEA, the community, and the teachers, that they support education and that is why they are up here and they are all about education. Mr. Neron stated that he stands up here as a living example of when he sat in high school and they told him he couldn't amount to anything and couldn't go to college and he is here to prove everybody wrong. Mr. Neron stated that he went to college, graduated, did what he had to do, and now he is here to lead the district and help lead the district. Mr. Neron stated that when they sit up here and we display these acts of egotistical and we get on the soap box and put on two or three pages of minutes of information that we want to talk about how we feel. Mr. Neron stated that he is not making this comment

because he wants to be heard because if you notice he didn't say anything. Mr. Neron stated that he is not going to stand here and allow for us as leaders to contradict our Pledge of Ethics. Mr. Neron stated that we are leading children so you need to look at yourself in the mirror and understand that we are leading children, leading the parents, and we can't continually sit up here and make these ridiculous comments to each other and start screaming and changing colors up here as we start to address each other. Mr. Neron stated that it is ridiculous and we need to take it down we have private session and if we need to duke it out in private session we can do that. Mr. Neron stated the public needs to be respected and that is all he asks. Mr. Neron stated that before he got elected the type of interrogation that he received when he sat up here to get elected was unfair, unjust, and crazy. Mr. Neron stated that it was disrespectful and it continues. Mr. Neron stated that he is not calling anyone out but you know who you are and you know what you did and it needs to stop. Mr. Neron stated that he knows that they are elected officials and this is political and he is a politician but let's do that somewhere else. Mr. Neron stated that let's not do this on behalf of the taxpayers and on taxpayers' time. Mr. Neron stated that you want to talk about overtime and you want to talk about that we can't do live streaming but yet we go on and extend these meetings to a degree that makes no sense.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he would like to comment about how divisive our City is and where it shouldn't be and why we should unite. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is politics at its best and the Mayor is tweeting on his Tweet asking the State of New Jersey to investigate and stop this budget and illegal tax increase and wasteful spending. Mr. Monteiro stated that another tweet from the Mayor states that next week he will publicize how the majority gives contracts to their friends even when the votes for approval failed and tonight at the Board of Education meeting they will be justifying their budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is our Mayor of our City just tearing our budget apart going citywide. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is the Mayor and has the right to certainly tweet what he wants but we talk about being a divisive City and that is uncalled for, not needed and totally offensive.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC; U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc.), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC; U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc.), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (negative- B.B. Miller & Co.; M & M Construction Co.; USBA Flex), Neron (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC; U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc.), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Pashman Stein; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC; U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc.), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for clarification of the legal services of the insurance carrier.

Mr. Kennedy explained.

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Groundwork Elizabeth), Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro stated that Groundwork Elizabeth is a great organization and is having a bike-a-thon throughout the City of Elizabeth on May 17th. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is a family event and encouraged everyone to participate.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mr. Kennedy for providing the bid information.

Mr. Kennedy explained the unit prices submitted for the bids.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez asked about hand checks on the Finance and Accounting Report and the Claims List.

Mr. Kennedy explained.

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (negative- B.B. Miller & Co.; M & M Construction Co.; USBA Flex), Neron (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Adams, Guitierrez & Lattiboudere, LLC; Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Machado Law Group, LLC; MARC Attorneys at Law; Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked if we are recording the meeting.

Mr. Kennedy responded that we are recording for broadcast on Cablevision.

Mr. Monteiro excused himself from the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Resolution – Better Speech and Hearing Month

Mrs. Carvalho read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Bilingual/Multicultural Education Weeks

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Kindness Awareness Month

Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – National School Nurses Day

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we recognized a school nurse today who saved the life of a parent and congratulated her. Mr. Rodriguez stated how important nurses are especially in a district like ours sometimes it is the only health professional our students will see.

Mr. Neron stated that in 2012 history was made here in the City when Charlene Bathelus was the first duly elected Haitian official in the City of Elizabeth.

Resolution – Haitian Heritage Month

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus stated that she appreciates her culture and is a very proud Haitian American. Ms. Bathelus stated that her parents struggled to come to the United States to provide for her and her two brothers who she loves dearly. Ms. Bathelus stated that, as Mr. Neron said, history was made by her being the first elected Haitian official in a public position. Ms. Bathelus thanked all of her community and everyone who voted for her, not only the Haitian community, the African American community, the Spanish community, the Portuguese community, the American community, everyone who was there to support her on her journey and everyone on this dais as well.

Resolution – Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Tuition Contract 2015-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – National Teacher Appreciation Week

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Neron stated that we have a sister city in Kitami, Japan and he had the honor of attending the celebration of the 45th year anniversary of the relationship which was held in Japan. Mr. Neron stated that the Board of Education supported him and shared a lot of paraphernalia with the students in Kitami. Mr. Neron stated that in October the Japanese delegation had the opportunity to come and celebrate Asian culture at School No. 29 and Edison. Mr. Neron stated that he supports this resolution and the diversity of our district in diversifying our students' curriculum and the children here that we serve.

Resolution – Cuban American Day

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is an honor to serve here as a Cuban-American and before him Cuban Americans have had a long tradition of serving on this Board of Education. Mr. Trujillo stated that Cuban Americans and Cubans in general whether you were born here or on the island take their politics rather serious simply because in Cuba they just don't have the opportunity and the freedom. Mr. Trujillo stated that this country adopts us and offers us that freedom. Mr. Trujillo stated that this City and this Board has seen a long list of Cuban Americans who have come through here including Dr. Orlando Edreira, who is the son of slaves and served on this Board, Rafael Fajardo, Fernando Nazco, Francisco Gonzalez, Virginia Sampredo, Oneida Duran, Angel Estrada, current Freeholder who also served on City Council, and Frank Cuesta. Mr. Trujillo stated that the City of Elizabeth has been a home to us and they have allowed for us to participate. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are very proud to call ourselves not just Cubans but Cuban Americans because this country has given us an opportunity that we did not have. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are able to practice our politics here and participate and we are very grateful for the opportunity.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that earlier this week he was invited by the old Cuban Club, the name has changed, and invited all of us on the Board and extended the invitation to the public for the Cuban American Day Parade on May 17th. Mr. Rodriguez stated that if you go to the Elizabeth bike ride in the morning then the parade starts at 11:00 a.m. at Union Square so that day is filled with a lot of events here in the City from morning until almost night.

Mr. Trujillo recognized Councilman Carlos Cedeno who is also Cuban American serving the community.

Resolution – Special Education Week

Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Essex County Educational Services Home Instruction Services 2015-2016

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

The first reading of the following new and revised policies, regulation, and exhibit was done:

1330	Exhibit	Use of Facilities
4115	Policy	Supervision
4123	Policy	Classroom Assistants (Paraprofessionals)
4222	Policy	Non-Instructional Aides
5141.21	Policy	Administering Medication

5141.21	Exhibit	Administration of Medication
5141.21	Exhibit	Medication Administration Order/Permission Form
5141.21	Exhibit	Self-Medication Permission Form
6145.1/6145.2	Policy	Intramural Competition/Interscholastic Competition
9271.1	Bylaw	Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks and Other Forms of Electronic Communication

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, specifically, P.G., C.V.; settlement agreement F.N.S., License Application M.R.; Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results and Workers' Compensation Claims, specifically F.E., G.D., A.G., J.G., D.G., R.H., E.M., K.M., J.O., J.P., F.R., and C.S. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to go into private session at 11:55 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro returned to the meeting at 11:56 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 1:00 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2013-21838) – F.E.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Claims – U.S. Department of Agriculture

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Perreira, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 9

Negative: None

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