

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

April 18, 2013
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on April 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, 631-657 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Mr. Monteiro welcomed everyone to Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26. Mr. Monteiro thanked Principal Howard Teitelbaum, Vice Principal Maria Guiducci and the staff for allowing us to have our meeting here and congratulated them for the excellent work that they are doing here. Mr. Monteiro thanked music teacher Christine Murphy for the wonderful performance yesterday. Mr. Monteiro stated that tomorrow we will be filming here to showcase Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26. Mr. Monteiro stated that we encourage participation by parents and community members as we take the Board meetings to different schools throughout the City of Elizabeth.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:30 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 Friday, April 12, 2013. 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 18, 2013 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, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González (arr. 7:35 p.m.), Nazco (arr. 7:35 p.m.), Padlo, Trujillo (arr. 7:38 p.m.), Monteiro – 8
Absent: Mr. Perreira – 1

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Board Attorney Kirk Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Board

Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene and members of the public were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Ms. Aileen Pressley-Ransom, teacher at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mr. Monteiro spoke of the tragedy of the mother of one of our students who lost her life in a devastating fire here in the City of Elizabeth this past week and the senseless tragedy and loss of life in Boston on April 15, 2013 and called for a moment of silence.

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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joyce Almeida, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Ralph Marciano and Kevin Dittman, teachers at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Taylor Barrett, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students in the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Orchestra who performed *Can-Can Orpheus* by Jacques Offenback and *Bossa Azul* by Burt Ligon. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students in the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Dramatic Arts Class who performed a folk dance from the Gujarati region of India to the song *Dham Dhamak Cham Samela*. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced sixth grade students Leslie Estevea and Amayah Washington and second grade students in the Mandarin Class at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 who performed a Mandarin Medley. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students in the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Theater Group who performed *A Poultry Tale* from the musical *Honk*. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced students in the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Jazz Ensemble who performed *All Blues* by Miles Davis, *Cantaloupe Island* by Herbie Hancock and *Oye Como Va* by Tito Puente. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the presentations are an important part to recognize the students, wonderful staff and community members. Mr. Monteiro introduced the Principal of Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Howard Teitelbaum.

Mr. Teitelbaum welcomed everyone and thanked the Board of Education for the honor of having the Board meeting at their school and stated that he hopes everyone will have a chance to

learn a little more about their program here and to see how our students can do well in the academic and arts. Mr. Teitelbaum stated that this is all part of the International Baccalaureate initiative that began here a couple of years ago and they were recently accepted as a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Primary Program for elementary grades and the International Baccalaureate Middle Program. Mr. Teitelbaum introduced teacher instructional coach David Reeseeg who explained the International Baccalaureate program and how it is impacting teaching and learning at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mr. Reeseeg stated that the International Baccalaureate Program is an educational program to help develop student intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills to learn, live, and work in a rapidly globalizing world and the goal of this program is to bring about a more peaceful, healthy and productive world. Mr. Reeseeg stated that the International Baccalaureate (IB) rigorous framework for education is respectful of national and cultural sensitivities while developing what the IB calls the international learner or one who follows the IB student learner profile. Mr. Reeseeg stated that the student learner profile is about students who are inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, open-minded, caring, risk takers, balanced and reflective. Mr. Reeseeg stated that IB is much more than an educational program and at heart participants are motivated by a mission to create a better world through thorough education. Mr. Reeseeg stated that in their mission statement IB states that they promote intercultural understanding and respect not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity but as an essential part of twenty-first century life.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Principal Teitelbaum and Mr. Reeseeg.

Mr. Padlo recognized the students in the Student Government from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 for Student Excellence for regularly meeting to develop ideas to improve school culture, taking on leadership roles in school events and contributing time and effort in the greater community through various groups and projects and introduced Student Government President Jorge Cedeno and Student Government Vice President Keyla Hernandez. Mr. Padlo and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized teachers from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 as Stars of Excellence for having a high level of commitment and caring and thanked them for being teachers and choosing their profession because they have tremendous passion for our students. Mr. Trujillo introduced physical education teachers Lori Abry and Rocco Casso, art teachers Alisa Brennan and Soula Campbell, music teachers Christine Murphy, Sean McLean, and Dr. Thomas Siebenhuhner, librarian Katherine Rayburn, and computer literacy teacher Paul Ruffin. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Michelle Ogonowski for Community Excellence in recognition of her dedication as PTA President for the past two years, parent representative on the school safety team, member of the parent/teacher cohort and by contributing many hours of her time through various school fundraising activities. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated Michelle Ogonowski and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized Jim Coyle, Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce President, and Bernadette Countryman, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce and Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, who have contributed their time, talents and have enlisted the support of many local business leaders to support the great work being done in our schools. Mr. Monteiro stated that one initiative that these two leaders, along with several sponsors, have contributed

their time and effort to is the Healthy Leap Health Expo which is now in its sixth year. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Healthy Leap Health Expo is held annually for the students of our six high schools and presents workshops, contests, and healthy living exhibits to over 2,000 students and is considered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to be the largest teen obesity awareness program in the United States. Mr. Monteiro thanked Jim Coyle and Bernadette Countryman for their support. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration in recognition of the long standing partnership with the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education for coming this evening and participating. Mr. Monteiro encouraged everyone to attend and participate more often in the monthly meetings and stated that we are taking the Board meetings throughout the district. Mr. Monteiro stated that they are very proud of the hard work of the staff, students, and parents to make us the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and now we are on our way to becoming the Number One School District in the United States. Mr. Monteiro stated that just this past week we received wonderful news that the Washington Post ranked Elizabeth High School the Number One Public High School in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Monteiro 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.”

Mr. Monteiro called upon the first public participant, Jose Rodriguez, to address the Board.

Jose Rodriguez, 618 Jackson Avenue, commended the Board of Education for doing a good job with security for student safety in light of the tragedy in Boston. Mr. Rodriguez spoke about the graduation rates at the high schools and offered to work with the Board.

Mr. Monteiro thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Amanda Leon, to address the Board.

Amanda Leon, 19 Erie Street, stated that she is a member of the Elizabeth Education Organizing Committee and thanked the Board for changing the public speaking time to before the agenda and requested the performances be held on a another night and copies of the agenda be available for parents to review before the meeting.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Echavarria, to address the Board.

Maria Echavarria, 321 Westfield Avenue, stated that her son is having problems in an out-of-district school and asked why we can't have a Development Learning Center here. Mrs. Echavarria stated that she would like to see the Security CPI and Handle with Care cards.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments.

Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mr. Monteiro declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Ms. Bathelus directed her comments to the second public speaker and stated that she hears her concern and that Mr. Monteiro is making a great effort to move the public portion up because normally the public portion would be after the performances and after we conduct all of our business and then we would let the public speak. Ms. Bathelus stated that Mr. Monteiro moving it up for the second time in a row prior to us conducting our business is a great step and he is showing that he is trying to listen to what the public is saying.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina offered to speak with Ms. Echavarria after the Board meeting.

Mr. Trujillo stated that we always hear the concerns of the citizens and continue to encourage them to come out and participate in these meetings. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is the perfect example of why we are moving these meetings throughout the City and unfortunately not everyone could get to the meetings when we had them just at Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education. Mr. Trujillo commended his colleagues for having the vision and commitment to making sure that we are as transparent as possible and that we do go throughout the City. Mr. Trujillo stated that there is talk of going back to the forums which we had in the past where we were able to do smaller groups with several Board members and have more of an intimate question and answer session and try to address some of those issues. Mr. Trujillo stated that he personally supports the performances and it is great that the public wants to come out and participate and speak and he encourages that. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are several other mediums to communicate with this Board including a Board office, Board Secretary, many of us give out our phone numbers and we are out in the community and are accessible so he doesn't think he can support moving the performances to another day.

Mr. Trujillo stated that coming here for the last six years the performances are such a joy for the children and the parents and if you were a child in school you remember how nervous you were when you came out and performed and how happy you were to look across the room and see your parent, grandparent, guardian, and the joy the child has and the joy the parents have seeing their child perform. Mr. Trujillo stated that let's not forget that many people have tough schedules and this is an opportunity for them to connect with their child and get involved with their child's education and see what they are doing. Mr. Trujillo stated that his daughter brings home an instrument every day and she takes it back and forth to school and then you see them perform and it all comes together and you say this is great that my child is playing an instrument and is part of a band. Mr. Trujillo stated that for him as a parent he loves the fact that the children can come here and perform. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Monteiro has found a compromise, a middle ground where we moved public participation up and we understand that it was too late but he doesn't think at any point that this Board has ever wanted to silence the public, on the contrary we enjoy the input that the public has to offer. Mr. Trujillo encouraged everyone to continue to come to these Board meetings and please take advantage of the lines of communication and as always, you can belong to an organization that advocates for children and he belongs to this Board but at the end of the day he as a father is the biggest advocate for his child and you as a parent or guardian are the biggest advocate for your child. Mr. Trujillo stated that if he had a concern he wouldn't wait and voice it at a Board meeting that happens once a month and if you wait to come here to do it then you wait a whole month to address an issue that probably could have been handled at the school level a whole lot sooner. Mr. Trujillo stated that he appreciates the fact that Mr. Monteiro has found a compromise.

Mr. Trujillo commented that he appreciates the concerns of Mr. Rodriguez and stated that we are concerned about that too. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have a mission here and part of our mission is to highlight the excellence and continue to build on it. Mr. Trujillo stated that we

know we have to do better but it takes years to do and we are moving in the right direction. Mr. Trujillo stated that across the board our scores are up and we're doing better and the parents tell us we're doing better and we are on the right track. Mr. Trujillo stated that he appreciates the concern and understands it but you have to realize that we are on our way and if you want to recognize it or not that is fine but we are being recognized. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Monteiro commented today that the Washington Post ranked us and our rankings are up and are 60th overall up from 66th last year. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are ranked 60th in the nation and an increase of 6 positions in one year. Mr. Trujillo stated that we know that some children are not going to do as well as others and we understand that and it is tragic but we are aware. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez has the right to come here and remind us of that but he thinks he comes here for the wrong reasons but everyone here is cognizant of where we need to improve. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are great professionals in this district who give so much of their time and do this with so much pride and being an educator is a love and if you love it you are probably living a dream because you see the kids develop in front of your eyes. Mr. Trujillo stated that they were here at a concert last night and it was beautiful and the kids come back, it is a bond, a family and it takes a while to build. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have been building it for quite a while and it is getting better and we are on our way. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is proud to be part of this and proud of our teachers and everyone who works in the district. Mr. Trujillo stated that he cannot sit here and say we aren't doing the right thing because we are doing the right thing and we can do better. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are absolutely going to do better and that we are committed 110% to taking this to be the Number One Urban School District not only in the State but in the country and that is our goal. Mr. Trujillo stated that we set the bar high and we are going to meet it someday.

Mr. Monteiro thanked all the public participants and speakers who came out tonight and the input from his colleagues. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are having a special day in Elizabeth on May 5th with an Excellence Parade as we did last year. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is an incredible day to celebrate all the achievements and excellence taking place here academically, in the arts, and the athletic programs. Mr. Monteiro stated that everyone is working so hard and he has been visiting many schools throughout the district and the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm is incredible. Mr. Monteiro invited everyone to come to the Excellence Parade on Sunday, May 5th beginning at 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the youngsters and the great staff here at the Elizabeth Public Schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the minutes of the meetings of March 13, 14, 21, and 27, 2013 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2013

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the request from the Department of Health and Human Services be approved as recommended and the remainder of the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated that his first report is the New Jersey School Performance Reports. Mr. Muñoz stated that on April 10, 2013 the New Jersey Department of Education released its new school report card which they are now calling School Performance Reports. Mr. Muñoz introduced Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, to present the New Jersey School Performance Reports.

Mrs. Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment stated that last week the New Jersey Department of Education released their annual school report cards. Mrs. Gil stated that each Spring data are released about how all schools performed in the previous school year. Mrs. Gil stated that this year the annual school report card was changed and it is now called the New Jersey School Performance Report and the data it contains has changed significantly.

Mrs. Gil stated that it is important to note that because of the major revisions made to the reports many of the pieces of data included are being reported for the first time. Mrs. Gil stated that in some instances this is the first time that they are being collected. Mrs. Gil stated that the new areas include chronic absenteeism, percent of students taking Algebra in either seventh or eighth grade, and the number of students taking at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course. Mrs. Gil stated that in addition to the New Jersey Department of Education relying on data being submitted by each district they also rely on sources such as the College Board and the National Student Clearinghouse. Mrs. Gil stated that also new this year each school was assigned to a Peer School Comparison Group of approximately 30 other schools which are similar in their percent of students that are economically disadvantaged according to the percent of free/reduced price meals, the percent of students that are limited English proficient, percent of students that are in special education, and grade span of the school. Mrs. Gil stated that local school districts have their own policies and procedures about how students are assigned or accepted into some or all of their schools and there is no statewide definition of a "magnet" school and because of this the peer school groupings do not consider magnet schools or gifted and talented contained within.

Mrs. Gil stated that there are three major areas in the new School Performance Reports including Academic Achievement for elementary and high school, College and Career Readiness for elementary and high school, and Student Growth for elementary school and Graduation and Post-Secondary for high school. Mrs. Gil stated that the Academic Achievement consists of statewide assessment programs including NJ ASK and HSPA. Mrs. Gil stated that the College and Career Readiness includes chronic absenteeism identified as not being present for 10% of the school year for any reason, Algebra enrollment in grades 7 and 8, and participation in PSAT, SAT, and AP. Mrs. Gil stated that Student Growth is a measure of performance of students from one year to the next on the NJ ASK compared to students with similar history of performance on the NJ ASK and applies to students taking the NJ ASK in grades 4 through 8. Mrs. Gil explained that the Graduation and Post-Secondary is based on the 4 year adjusted cohort graduation rates and the dropout rate. Mrs. Gil stated that all the reports have enrollment data by grade, total enrollment, program participation including students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, and limited English proficiency, language diversity, ethnic and racial subgroups, gender, length of school day including total day and instructional time, student suspensions, student expulsions, and student to staff ratios. Mrs. Gil stated that the additional information includes achievement gap, No Child Left Behind progress targets, NJ ASK proficiency trends, 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), HSPA proficiency trends, Advanced Placement (AP) results, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results, graduation pathways, and post-secondary enrollment rates.

Mrs. Gil stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools' Performance shows the percentile equivalent and the performance levels including very high, high, average, lagging, and significantly lagging. Mrs. Gil stated that the Academic Achievement Peer Group Comparisons show that 100% of the Elizabeth Public Schools elementary schools are rated average to very high performance, in the College and Career Readiness Peer Group Comparisons 100% of our elementary schools are rated average to very high performance, in the College and Career

Readiness State Comparisons 100% of our elementary schools are rated average to very high performance, in the Student Growth Peer Group Comparisons 75% of our schools are rated from average to very high, and our overall performance shows 83% of our schools ranked high or very high performance in at least one comparison. Mrs. Gil stated that for Academic Achievement Peer Ranked School Nos. 22, 7, 26, 14, 13, 29, 15 and Elizabeth High School are ranked very high performance schools and School Nos. 25, 27, 30, 5, 6, 21, 2, 4, 16, 20, and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy are ranked high performance schools. Mrs. Gil stated that for College and Career Readiness Peer Ranked School Nos. 22, 26, 29, 7, 21, and Elizabeth High School are ranked very high performance schools and School Nos. 14, 16, 30, 3, 18, 12, 15, 25, 6, 5, 23, 13, 28, and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy are ranked high performance schools. Mrs. Gil stated that for Student Growth Peer Ranked School Nos. 14, 13, 26, and 7 are ranked very high performance schools and School Nos. 3, 18, 22, 6, 4, 19, 25, and 29 are ranked high performance schools. Mrs. Gil stated that for Academic Achievement State Ranked School Nos. 7, 22, 26, and Elizabeth High School were ranked very high and high performance, for College and Career Readiness State Ranked School Nos. 22, 29, 26, 7, 18, 14, 30, 21, 12, 15, 27, 3, and Elizabeth High School were ranked very high and high performance, for Student Growth State Ranked School Nos. 14, 7, 26, and 13 were ranked very high and high performance, and for Graduation/Post-Secondary Peer Ranked Schools Elizabeth High School and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy were ranked high performance and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked high performance for Graduation/Post-Secondary State Ranked. Mrs. Gil stated that for Overall Performance School Nos. 7, 26, 14, 22, 29, 13, and Elizabeth High School were ranked high or very high numerous times.

Mrs. Gil stated that New Jersey designates Reward Schools as schools with outstanding student achievement or growth over the past three years and there were 112 Reward Schools for 2012 and only 57 for 2013 largely due to the fact that schools are now required to meet specific academic targets. Mrs. Gil stated that two of our schools out of 57 in the State of New Jersey were selected as Reward Schools including Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and William F. Halloran School No. 22.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz thanked Mrs. Gil for the report. Mr. Muñoz stated that the School Performance Report Cards are brand new and for all the schools across the State it is a new experience and this year can be called the base line year for many schools across the State. Mr. Muñoz stated that he commended the State especially Dr. Bari Erlichson who is in charge of this program because this was a bold move by the Department of Education to create multiple categories to rate schools across the State as well as to compare them to similar schools so that you as parents can have a good sense of how your school is doing. Mr. Muñoz stated that he believes it is going to have a great impact across all districts in New Jersey as they now start to consider policy changes and programmatic changes in their district in order for them to achieve better on these rankings. Mr. Muñoz commended the Elizabeth Board of Education and thanked them for the last eight years of support of policy recommendations, program approvals, and budgets that have supported us in order for us to achieve as well as we did on this performance report, given that it was the first year and we didn't know how they were going to measure us.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated that since 1998 the Washington Post has been ranking Washington D.C. area public high schools using the Challenge Index which measures how effectively a school prepares its students for college and since 2011 the Washington Post expanded its research to high schools across the United States. Mr. Muñoz stated that in 2012 the Washington Post included a sampling of private schools and in 2013 approximately 1,900 high schools were ranked nationwide out of approximately 22,000 United States public high schools. Mr. Muñoz stated that he is very proud to inform everyone that the Washington Post has ranked Elizabeth High School and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy in the top high schools in the United States of America. Mr. Muñoz stated that Elizabeth High School was ranked No. 2 in New Jersey and when you look at the data they were the No. 1 public high school ranked because

the No. 1 ranked high school in New Jersey was a private school. Mr. Muñoz stated that in the northeast when you consider all the high schools from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and so on, this year we improved our ranking. Mr. Muñoz stated that if you log on to the website of the Washington Post you will see Elizabeth High School right on the front page. Mr. Muñoz stated that we moved up to the No. 2 public high school in the entire northeast and our ranking has improved and it has improved every year. Mr. Muñoz stated that the first year 2011, Elizabeth High School was ranked nationally 178, last year in 2012, Elizabeth High School was ranked 79 and this year their best ranking so far Elizabeth High School moved up to No. 60 most challenging high school in all of America.

Mr. Muñoz stated that this is the second year that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked in New Jersey and in the nation. Mr. Muñoz stated that in New Jersey Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked the 60th most challenging high school and in the nation they were ranked 1,571 out of 1,900 schools but it is 1,571 out of 22,000 public high schools. Mr. Muñoz commended the team members and faculty at Elizabeth High School and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and Principals Mr. Cummings and Mr. Mikros who have done a wonderful job improving the school every year and getting more and more students prepared to go to college and attending college.

Superintendent Muñoz highlighted the excellent news and activities that have occurred in the Elizabeth Public Schools since our last board meeting including the selection of Elizabeth's Football Coach John Quinn as State Coach of the Year, Verizon Folder Design Competition at Robert Morris School No. 18, students from Madison-Monroe School No. 16 visited Montclair State University, students from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy visited Drew University, students from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 in a gifted and talented competition, students from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 competed in Theatrefest at Chatham Middle School, first AVID Family Activity Night was held at Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy, Healthy Eating at Christopher Columbus School No. 15, 7th Annual Einstein Science Expo at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, students in the chorus, band and visual arts from Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 performed at the Union County Teen Arts Festival, students from Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Leadership Academy visited the Finance Park, students from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 visited Rutgers University, Black History Month studies at Charles J. Hudson School No. 25, students from Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Leadership Academy visited the New York Stock Exchange, renowned blues musician Fruteland Jackson visited Madison-Monroe School No. 16, Black History Competition at Christopher Columbus School No. 15, Black History Month performance *Still I Rise* at Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, Family Literacy Fundraiser at Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, students at Mabel G. Holmes produced, filmed, and edited television newscasts, students in the Rutgers University Business for Youth Program at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy visited Ernst & Young, Elizabeth High School Forensics Team competed at the District Tournament held at Summit High School, Junior Seminar Event for eleventh grade students and their parents was held on Saturday, March 23 and the Newark Boys' Choir performed at Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30. Mr. Muñoz stated that you can continue to follow the excellent news on our website, www.epsnj.org.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Muñoz for his report.

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Authorizations Report – Authorizations, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Donoso – 1

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Donoso – 1

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus asked why we are paying for unused sick days and if there is a cap.

Mr. Kennedy explained the sick pay and the cap.

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Better Speech and Hearing Month

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Bilingual Multicultural Education Weeks

Mr. Nazco read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Donoso – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Kindness Awareness Month

Mr. González read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – National School Nurses’ Day

Mr. Donoso read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Haitian Heritage Month

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus recognized members of the Haitian community present tonight including Jefferson Park Executive Director Alex Elie, Haitian Flag Committee of New Jersey Director Martelle Gravile, and community member Lee Joseph.

The second reading was done of the revised Minutes Bylaw File Code 9326.

Resolution – Revised Minutes Bylaw File Code 9326

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, R.S., M.A., M.A., M.K., D.S., and B.G.; early childhood provider corrective action plan, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results, and workers’ compensation claims, specifically, B.M. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. González, to go into private session at 9:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Padlo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Nazco excused himself from the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 10:40 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – B.S. o/b/o D.S.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – E.G. o/b/o B.G.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Paid Administrative Leave – R.S.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

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

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Padlo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mr. Donoso stated that he was announcing his resignation from the Board this evening due to time consuming personal commitments and he has also taken on the task of running for State Senate here in the 20th Legislative District. Mr. Donoso stated that he will support this Board as he has for the last twenty years and he is going into private life for a short time and then into public again running for the Senate seat in the 20th Legislative District. Mr. Donoso stated that it will be time consuming and it is not fair to his colleagues as this is a 24/7 day/week job and he unfortunately doesn't have the time to commit right now. Mr. Donoso tendered his resignation from the Board effective immediately.

Mr. González commended Mr. Donoso for recognizing the need to dedicate time to his business and his political vision and thanked him for his service on the Board and wished him best of luck in the elections and in his business.

Mr. Padlo thanked Mr. Donoso for being a great mentor to him and wished him the best in everything he takes on.

Ms. Bathelus expressed gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Donoso welcoming her and wished him the best in his endeavors.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked Mr. Donoso for his years of service as a Board member and his commitment to the children of Elizabeth. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina congratulated him on his Senate run and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he now knows what the term to accept a resignation with regret means. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Donoso is dedicated and a productive member of this Board and thanked him for his service to the children of the City of Elizabeth and to the community. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is an outstanding member of this Board who will be sorely missed. Mr. Monteiro commended him and wished him continued success in all his future endeavors.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. González, to accept the resignation of Board member John Donoso.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Padlo, Monteiro – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro stated that he was appointing a special committee for a selection process to find the best candidate to fill the Board vacancy. Mr. Monteiro appointed Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Trujillo, Mr. Padlo, and Mrs. Castillo-Ospina to the special committee.

Ms. Bathelus thanked him for putting her on the committee and stated that there have been several resignations on the Board in the past and a lot of people were appointed. Ms. Bathelus thanked him for putting her in the process and stated that as a Board together we are going to be looking for a community member who can serve on this Board as effective as Mr. Donoso has been.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the challenges facing this Board of Education in the upcoming months are substantial and we need to be at full strength. Mr. Monteiro stated that this committee will do a fine job in selecting a candidate and then recommending the candidate to the entire Board.

On a motion by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Padlo, Monteiro – 5

Negative: None

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