

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

April 22, 2021  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on April 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207. The Meeting will be open to the public in person, however, in light of the public health emergency caused by Coronavirus the public will be required to follow all universal precautions including masks, temperature monitoring, visitor Covid monitoring sign-in log and social distancing. Space will be limited based on guidelines regarding social distancing and room capacity. Voice conferencing technology for the Thursday, April 22, 2021 Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. will continue to be available to the public at <https://www.facebook.com/epsnj> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/epschools>.

Board President Jerry Jacobs presented the following statement at 6:38 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on April 20, 2021. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

We want to welcome everyone present here at School No. 51 and to our online viewers to this April 22, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion may sign in up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment. There will also be an online public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must register online up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form states the name and email of the person who wants to comment. Members of the public who prefer not to or do not have the means to participate using the online platform may continue to participate by emailing statements relative to agenda items and/or

educational matters to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org). All statements received will be read into the record during the Meeting's Public Comment Portion. All emails must be submitted and received by the Secretary of the Board up to the start of the meeting and, as is always the case, must include the public member's full name for the record. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. Emails received but not read after the 60 minute duration will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting."

Present: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa (via online platform), Charlene Bathelus (arr. 6:50 p.m. via online platform), Maria Carvalho (via online platform), Iliana Chevres (arr. 6:39 p.m.), Rosa Moreno-Ortega (via online platform), Stephanie Pestana, Jerry Jacobs – 8

Absent: Stanley Neron – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, were present. Members of the community were present in-person and via an online platform.

Pledge of Allegiance  
National Anthem

Mr. Jacobs recognized all of our dedicated administrative professionals and stated that yesterday was Administrative Professionals Day. Mr. Jacobs stated that today is Earth Day and we know how important this is especially for our children to make sure that we have an earth to leave them.

Mr. Jacobs recognized Isabella Santos, Elizabeth wrestler who won the State Championship in the 100 lb. class. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is an amazing achievement and we are so proud of Isabella Santos.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in recognition of Autism Awareness Month we are presenting a video that highlights the activities taking place in our classrooms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that since welcoming our students back on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, members of the Board, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Ceden, and Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez visited several schools that house the district's autism program including Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Elmora School No. 12, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, and Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that autism is a complex lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation in varying degrees. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the CDC estimates that 1 in 54 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder based on data collected on health and special education records of children living in eleven communities across the United States in 2016 including 1 in 32 in New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we want our students and families with autism to know that we support them and we will continue to do all that we can to help your children grown and most importantly succeed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented the Autism

Awareness video. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is beautiful to have our children and teachers back in our schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer recognized Pamela Gennaro, special education teacher at Elmora School No. 12, for her heroic efforts earlier today. Mrs. Hugelmeyer read a letter of commendation from the Elizabeth Board of Education and the Elizabeth Public Schools Professional Learning Community for her courageous efforts in protecting the safety and welfare of a student who stepped out of a school bus and immediately ran into the street putting himself in grave danger of being struck by a vehicle that was approaching and without hesitation, placed herself in harm's way by quickly following the student into the street and throwing herself on top of him shielding him to the best of her ability to protect him as the car passed by without a tragedy occurring. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked her for providing tremendous care to our students and for her dedication and commitment to ensuring our students continue to learn, grow, and succeed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Pamela Gennaro and her principal, Melissa Kulick, who were online virtually. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked everyone to applaud the heroic and life-saving efforts of Pamela Gennaro.

Elmora School No. 12 Principal Melissa Kulick thanked Pamela Gennaro for what she did today. Mrs. Kulick thanked, on behalf of the Elmora School No. 12 staff, special education kindergarten teacher Pamela Gennaro publicly for her dedication and genuine love for her students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Pamela Gennaro for her amazing heroism and her dedication for her children for what she does each and every day.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked Pamela Gennaro. Mrs. Barbosa stated that Pamela Gennaro and all the teachers like her make her, as a parent, feel safe at home. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we have teachers, administrators, and staff that go above and beyond and that is absolutely above and beyond. Mrs. Barbosa stated that with heroic teachers, administrators, and staff this is a story that will never be forgotten. Mrs. Barbosa thanked Pamela Gennaro for what she did today and that because of people like her she knows that our children are protected each and every day when they go to school.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he was so happy that Mrs. Barbosa was able to join him as they toured the schools on Autism Day. Mr. Jacobs stated that the reason he thought that was special is because last year when Mrs. Barbosa was president, she didn't get the chance to experience Autism Day. Mr. Jacobs stated that we weren't in session and were in the pandemic. Mr. Jacobs stated that it was important that he was able to recognize her and he was glad she was able to be there. Mr. Jacobs stated that it was wonderful to see our children in school and happy and that is one of the reasons that Superintendent Hugelmeyer and the Board wanted to focus on getting our youngest children back and our most impacted children back in the classroom as soon as possible.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Elizabeth Public School Announcements for April 2021 including the Reopening Together Plan: Reopening Plan

Update. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools reached a milestone achievement in welcoming back grades PreK through 3 for in-person learning this past Monday. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that nearly 4,500 students throughout the district that were able to return to their classrooms for the first time on April 19<sup>th</sup> since schools throughout the State were closed due to the pandemic. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked our principals, vice principals, school personnel, support staff, and central office personnel because this really has been an Elizabeth Public Schools community effort in being able to reopen our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Mayor Bollwage for his support. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Trinitas Hospital for making the opportunity to vaccinate our EPS team members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a video that highlights the return to school of our PreK to 3 students including the preparation to ensure that classrooms and buildings were ready as well as the recognition of those that made it possible. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she cannot stress enough to our Elizabeth community how hard our Board of Education has worked and the countless hours at the table discussing every facet of our Reopening Plan to ensure that Monday was a success. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Board for their time, how much they care, whether it is Saturday or Sunday they are there at the table and their support is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone including Superintendent Hugelmeyer, assistant superintendents, business administrator, directors, and staff. Mr. Jacobs stated that over the past week and a half, he and his fellow Board members who accompanied him on our tour of schools have felt the excitement that our community, teachers, and staff have felt coming back to school. Mr. Jacobs stated that everyone was happy and the children were ecstatic. Mr. Jacobs stated that this was a monumental task and we were successfully able to reopen our schools. Mr. Jacobs stated that many districts of our size struggled and decided not to open. Mr. Jacobs stated that Superintendent Hugelmeyer had a plan and needed time to execute. Mr. Jacobs stated that she was given the time to execute the plan and she delivered. Mr. Jacobs stated that he can't say enough how important it was to get our children back to school. Mr. Jacobs thanked all of our staff that were involved and stated that you could see that everyone was excited and motivated to return our children back to the classroom.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented the Reopening Together Plan for welcoming back students in grades 4 and 5 on Monday April 26<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the commitment to safe schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools maintains its pledge to open schools responsibly, guided by the principles of exceeding minimum expectations to place health and safety first for our students and team members; providing high-quality instruction to all students; and delivering accurate and timely communication to team members and families. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that to please refer to our Elizabeth Public Schools Reopening Together Plan Guidebook 2.0 for access to information regarding the extensive protective measures that have been put in place to make the return to school safe for children.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Covid-19 Assessment and stated that all students and staff must continue to be screened for symptoms each day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents or guardians must complete the Covid-19 Assessment every day for each child. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Covid-19 Assessment and stated that parents can access the daily Covid-19 Assessment on their child's iPad or laptop by tapping on the PowerSchool icon or by visiting the website

<https://eps.powerschool.com/public>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Covid-19 Assessment must be completed by the parent or guardian no later than 9:00 p.m. on the night before the child is attending school and if a child develops symptoms overnight, please contact the school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the Covid-19 Assessment is available in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Portuguese. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that parents and guardians will receive a daily phone call or text message with a reminder to complete the Covid-19 Assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students will be excluded from entering classrooms if their parent has not completed the Covid-19 Assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that temperature screening (for students or staff) will be conducted using a contactless thermometer prior to boarding the school bus and prior to entering the school.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about transportation and stated that transportation has been offered to parents that reside 2.0 miles and beyond and also for students whose IEP include transportation services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all are socially distanced on the bus.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about arrival and dismissal and stated that welcome back letters from principals will be sent home with detailed information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about daily virtual instructional support and stated that teachers will continue to be available daily to interact with their students through virtual support from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Pre-K – grade 8 level. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that teacher interaction in the afternoon may include small/whole group instruction, peer to peer instruction, follow up, questions, and check-in. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that full-time distance learning has been made available for students in high-risk health categories or who are not comfortable returning to school in-person.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about travel quarantine and stated that while our return date for grade 4 and 5 students to in-person instruction is Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, individual travel quarantine circumstances may dictate a delayed return to school for your child. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that if you have traveled internationally, outside the United States, or within the U.S. to states other than New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Delaware, you and your child are required to quarantine for 10 days. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that with regard to all travel, any child required to quarantine will be able to continue on virtual instruction during the quarantine period.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Grab-n-Go Breakfast and Lunch Program and stated that breakfast will be provided at school for students in grades 4 and 5. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that Elizabeth Public Schools will continue to offer the Grab-n-Go Lunch Program as students return for in-person learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all students may receive free meals regardless of status and parents are able to pick up the Grab-n-Go meals at the nearest location to their home. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that the latest information regarding available locations, dates, and times for the Grab-n-Go pickup can be found on our district website.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that students in self-contained special education classes for grades 6-8 will return on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer

presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that students in grades 11 and 12 and self-contained special education classes for grades 9-12 will return on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and stated that students in grades 9 and 10 will return on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the State Assessments and stated that the New Jersey Department of Education has provided information on the state assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the schedule of state assessments for the month of April calendar and explained the schedule of state assessments for English language arts, math, and science. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and explained the schedule of test dates for May. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide and explained the schedule of test dates for June.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the High School Prom. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there will be two dates for the High School Prom on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Westmount Country Club from 7:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide on the venue and event information and stated that due to the Governor's Executive Order regarding 50% indoor maximum capacity, there will be 500 students per night maximum. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the venue all food stations and bar areas will be separated by plexiglass, there are hand sanitizer stations throughout the facility, HEPA filtration systems were installed, there are renovated touchless restrooms, and temperature check machines will be provided by Westmount. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students may not be accompanied by another guest.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about High School Graduation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there was an article in NJ Advance Media for nj.com by Brent Johnson stating that 22 New Jersey mayors called upon the Governor to waive outdoor gathering limits for graduation ceremonies and the Governor will have more guidance next week on that and other steps the state will take on easing the coronavirus restrictions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we know that Governor Murphy will be issuing new guidance next week on this particular issue and other steps that the state will take to ease the restrictions from the coronavirus pandemic. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are looking forward to the new guidelines that Governor Murphy will announce and we will immediately issue a communication to our parents and families with regard to plans for graduations to honor our eighth grades as well as our seniors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that concluded her presentation.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is very happy that we are able to bring our children back. Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone involved because it was a smooth transition of successfully opening.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that this week is very special for us and we were able to open our schools for our staff and administrators. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked each one who made it possible. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that, as a teacher from another urban district with almost the same population as the Elizabeth Public Schools with the impossibility of opening she is very proud of this moment. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the Mayor for his unconditional support for the reopening of our schools. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega spoke the same words in Spanish.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Honorable Mayor Christian Bollwage who made it possible by having over 1,100 vaccinations available to our teachers and staff. Mr. Jacobs thanked our local

public officials and their assistance and our local health department that was integral with the constant communication with our Superintendent in making sure that the schools could be open. Mr. Jacobs thanked Trinitas Regional Medical Center for being the vaccination site and everything they have done in partnership with us. Mr. Jacobs stated that without having all these different entities working together with us this wouldn't have been a successful reopening. Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone.

Mr. Jacobs presented the President's Focus and stated that after a year he was extremely excited to have our first group of grade levels return to their school buildings again for in-person instruction. Mr. Jacobs thanked our support staff, administrators, teachers, healthcare workers, and members of our community who are working together to help get our students and team members back in our school. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is just as excited to welcome our next group of students in grades 4 and 5 this coming Monday. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is excited that we are bringing back all of our children on a staggered schedule. Mr. Jacobs stated that it remains vitally important that we continue to practice those preventative health and hygiene protocols, to continue social distancing, and to get our Covid-19 vaccinations. Mr. Jacobs stated that let's stay strong, stay the course, and keep working together to help our children succeed.

Mr. Jacobs stated that it is fantastic that students in our autism program are back in school. Mr. Jacobs stated that he had the opportunity to visit our autism program with Board members Mrs. Barbosa and Mrs. Chevres, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Cedenio, and Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez. Mr. Jacobs stated that it was great experience seeing our students in the autism program learning and doing activities back in their classrooms after more than a year of being out. Mr. Jacobs stated that it bears repeating that according to the CDC, autism affects an estimated 1 in 54 children in the United States including 1 in 32 children in New Jersey. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is so important that we do everything we can as a learning community to support our students with autism and their families. Mr. Jacobs stated that as a school district we will continue to do our best to help students with autism to grow, develop, and become prepared for their transition into adulthood.

Mr. Jacobs expressed his gratitude for everyone's remarkable efforts in helping us bring our students back into our classrooms. Mr. Jacobs stated that it has been a long, long tough road but we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and together we will reach our destination.

Mr. Jacobs 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 microphone based on the order of the sign-in. The in-person public comment session will be followed by public comment on-line to those who have registered with the on-line participation form prior to this session. I shall also call those individuals to participate based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The time limit will be strictly enforced and audio transmission will be terminated at the end of three minutes. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. The following rules for public participation shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced; no personal attacks on individuals; no vulgar or indecent language; a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting; speakers should refrain from naming individuals; comments or questions posed during public participation

will not be debated. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

If the 60 minute public comment period expires before all registered in person and on-line participants have been called, remaining participants can email their statements to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org) and they will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting”

Mr. Jacobs called upon the first in-person public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little spoke about problems with the reopening of schools.

Mr. Jacobs thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Michelle Santos spoke about special education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Danielle Fienberg, to address the Board.

Danielle Fienberg spoke about the child who was saved by the teacher and the Quiet Hands program.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the first online public participant, Beatriz Cruz, to address the Board. Beatriz Cruz did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called upon the next online public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz stated that there is no elopement policy and spoke about special education.

Mr. Jacobs thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the next online public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board. Christina Moreira did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy read the following email received from Maria Echavarria:  
“My name is Maria Echavarria. I hope people are waking up to the dangers of vaccines. Johnson and Johnson I could've sworn gave people cancer with baby powder and paid out millions of dollars. Moderna has never made a vaccine for humans ever. DMX had his 2nd vaccine shot within a week of his heart attack. Main steam media won't tell you the truth. They'll tell you it was drugs. Vaccines are actually the only drug we aren't allowed to say no to. Vaccines are labeled as biologics so it doesn't go through the same rigorous double blind placebo studies as medications do. This country is 1 out of 2 countries that have all these medication commercials



then years later have commercials for a lawsuit regarding side effects from medication. Look how Johnson and Johnson is at a halt. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has approved vaccines that caused heart attacks in the past so why is it so unbelievable for people to see these shots are biological warfare on people. Think about the oath you all took as public servants. 14th Amendment reads, All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law. Spread the word to the city, county and state that you work for us, WE THE PEOPLE. You have been put on notice for violations of our rights. Masks, testing, tracing, tracking and vaccines are all violations. These are crimes against humanity.”

Mr. Kennedy read the following email received from Jensi Javier:

“To the Elizabeth Public Schools Board of Education members and Central Office Administrators, I hope this message finds you well. My name is Jensi Javier, I am the Junior Class President at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy. I would like to first start off by thanking each and every one of you for the service you have provided to our community, most specifically, our schools – students and staff alike. Taking on a role such as the ones you all possess cannot be an easy task, especially during times like these. Thank you. I felt inclined to write this message to you all to express some a pressing item that has caused distress within myself and my peers. I find myself quite proud as I intermingle with many of my classmates. Lately, though, it seems that many of the conversations that I hold with my peers are negative as we all bare heavy burdens on our backs. Currently, like many of the students at Hamilton, I am enrolled in several AP courses. I have spent the duration of this very challenging school year preparing for the AP exams, which associate with the courses that I am enrolled in. Although this has been a challenging experience, I am thankful as I have grown so much – both personally and academically. With this, though, I must express great concern with the fact that information regarding the AP exam schedule has not been relayed to any of us. Many of the students in my classes have asked our teachers for clarity as to when we will be testing only to receive replies of the unknown. This seems to be the same when asking our guidance department and our building's administration. Therefore, it is with great respect that I ask for a concrete directive - when will the AP exams take place? Will they be administered on paper or on the computer? Answers to these questions will alleviate a tremendous amount of anxiety from myself and my peers, so we would all appreciate a rapid reply. This year has been tough, to say the least, this one favor will assist in allowing the end of the school year to be a little less stressful.”

Since there were no other participants for public speaking and no emails received, Mr. Jacobs closed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he wanted to speak about other major events happening this week. Mr. Jacobs stated that the George Floyd trial was an example to us of accountability. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is not an example of justice served because justice would have been George Floyd still being alive. Mr. Jacobs stated that the trial was one of the first times that a police officer was held accountable for murdering a black man on the street mercilessly. Mr. Jacobs stated that this has been going on for far too long and has been going on since the end of slavery. Mr.

Jacobs stated that he hopes our society is at a point in time where we can finally start moving past this and make changes in the system so that all people of color are treated equally. Mr. Jacobs stated that he also recalls seeing on Instagram about black and Latino kids being harassed in a neighboring city for riding their bikes, getting their bikes taken, and being arrested. Mr. Jacobs stated that happens to so many black and Latino children unfairly. Mr. Jacobs stated that infuriates him and these kids are out being kids. Mr. Jacobs stated that he remembers what it was like to be a kid and ride his bike around town. Mr. Jacobs stated that they may have been causing a traffic nuisance but they end up stopping for the police and agreeing with the sergeant and thought they were going on their way. Mr. Jacobs stated that the fact that it had to continue to escalate and that these kids that don't live in Edison and are not required to have a license because they don't live in that municipality, that their property had to be taken away and they were arrested. Mr. Jacobs stated that it shouldn't be that way. Mr. Jacobs stated that simple things escalate into bigger things and it shouldn't be that way. Mr. Jacobs stated that he is torn over the events that happened in Ohio. Mr. Jacobs stated that when you experienced this your whole life and you know but now you have to look at it on a daily basis it really starts to wear you down. Mr. Jacobs stated that you say to yourself that this is 2021 and when is this going to stop. Mr. Jacobs stated that his sons have to go through it and asked if he has to worry that his grandkids have to go through this. Mr. Jacobs stated that he was watching the funeral today of Dante Wright and this can't be going on every week with two or three cases going on. Mr. Jacobs stated that our country and our society have to realize that things have to change. Mr. Jacobs stated that people are getting killed in the streets for nonviolent offenses, for traffic offenses. Mr. Jacobs stated that people say that if you just comply it wouldn't be an issue. Mr. Jacobs stated that even when you do comply it becomes an issue and not complying should not be a death sentence for black and Latino people in the street. Mr. Jacobs stated that it distresses him to the point where he says to himself that he has to pray and faith in God changes everything. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have to hope for the best future for all of our children.

Mrs. Barbosa excused herself from the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Pestana, to go into private session at 8:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa returned to the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Mrs. Carvalho excused herself from the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pestana, seconded by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 8:36 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs requested a motion to suspend the rules in regard to amending the agenda to approve the emergency bus contracts.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Pestana, to suspend the rules in regard to amending the agenda to approve the emergency bus contracts.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs requested a motion to adopt the following agenda:

Minutes of the Meetings of March 18 and 25, 2021

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2021

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

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

Authorizations Report

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

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award of Contracts

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Award of Contracts

Miscellaneous Communication – None

Claims List

Resolution – Kindness Awareness Month

Resolution – National School Nurse Day

Resolution – Asian-Pacific American Month

Resolution – National Teacher Appreciation Week

Resolution – Special Education Week

Resolution – Better Speech and Hearing Month

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing – Public Relations Firm – Strategic Message Management

Resolution – E.R.E.S.C. Home Instruction Services for School Year 2021-2022

Resolution – Appointing Appco Paper and Plastics Corp. for Cafeteria Paper and Plastic Goods

Resolution – Integrated Systems Services for Camera and Video Management System  
Resolution – Workers’ Compensation Claim (2012-12410) – D.G.  
Resolution – Workers’ Compensation Claim (2016-3371) – D.G.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to adopt the above agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote (except for the Personnel Report- W.F. which did not pass):

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez (negative – Personnel Report- W.F.), Barbosa (negative – Personnel Report- W.F.), Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Personnel Report- W.F.), Mmes. Chevres (abstain- Personnel Report- W.F.; abstain- Authorizations Report – One Community, One Family Coalition), Moreno-Ortega (negative- Personnel Report- W.F.), Pestana (negative – Personnel Report- W.F.), Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Kennedy stated that the full agenda passed except for the Personnel Report – W.F. which did not pass.

Mr. Williams stated that under the circumstances he recommends that the Board make a motion and second approving the resolution for the award of contract for six additional routes to Villani Bus and three additional routes to Shore Van Lines. Mr. Williams stated that the price for Villani would be \$660. per route and for Shore would be \$440. per route and would be based on the determination that the contract was negotiated and should be awarded without public advertising for bids and bidding, notwithstanding that the contract price is now provided because it is an emergency affecting the health and safety of occupants of school property and requires the immediate delivery of goods and performance of services.

Resolution - Award of Contract for six additional routes to Villani Bus and three additional routes to Shore Van Lines

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, that the above resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next board meeting following

completion of the investigation, and include: 1) Any services provided; 2) Training established; 3) Discipline imposed; or 4) Other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

On a motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Pestana, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Moreno-Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

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