

APPROVED  
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BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

April 26, 2018  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A public hearing on the 2018-2019 Board of Education Proposed Budget was called on April 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., in the Multi Purpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 5:45 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a Public Hearing of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was published in The Star Ledger on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present for this April 26, 2018 meeting of the Board of Education. 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.”

Present: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Absent: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Nina – 3

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Ethics

Core Beliefs and Commitments Video

Mrs. Carvalho stated that tragically we lost two students, Nahum Flores, seventh grade student at Christopher Columbus School No. 15 and Nahun Amaya Garcia, student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mrs. Carvalho called for a moment of silence to remember Nahum Flores and Nahun Amaya Garcia and keep their families in prayer at this time.

Mrs. Carvalho read the following statement for the public hearing on the budget.

“We are here this evening to hear the public express their views regarding the proposed 2018-2019 budget, in accordance with New Jersey Statute 18A:22-13, and I quote, ‘On the date and at the time and place so fixed, the Board of School Estimate or the Board of Education as the case may be shall hold such public hearing at which time the taxpayers and other interested

persons shall have an opportunity to present objections and to be heard with respect to said budget and the amounts of money necessary to be appropriated and the various items and purposes for which the same are to be appropriated for the use of public schools in the district for the ensuing school year.’

Those wishing to speak for or against the budget 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, and telephone number of the person wishing to speak.”

Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone for attending and stated that it is a very exciting time in the Elizabeth Public Schools as the District continues to work towards its vision of becoming one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the District has prepared a budget for the 2018-2019 school year with an emphasis on providing high quality classroom instruction and a rigorous curriculum with the goals of college preparedness, career readiness, and on-time graduation for every child. Mrs. Carvalho stated that, as has been the case in recent years, the budget also focuses on our continued increase in student enrollment by maximizing and efficiently allocating classroom space.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education she would like to recognize the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth whose generous contributions allowed the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools to fulfil their potential and to become the future leaders of our community and beyond. Mrs. Carvalho stated that ensuring our students have the tools necessary to achieve at high levels requires striking a fine balance of the values and needs of our students, families, and taxpaying community members when determining the most cost efficient and fiscally responsible manner in which to allocate local, state, and federal funding.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that among the highlights of the 2018-2019 budget is the manner in which the District is addressing the expected increase in student enrollment. Mrs. Carvalho stated that due to the expected increase of 857 students next year, the Board has signed a lease agreement to secure the former Bender Memorial Academy located at 416 Linden Avenue. Mrs. Carvalho stated that this facility will be used as an annex for Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 which will result in the hiring of 19.5 new positions for the school. Mrs. Carvalho stated that overall we will be hiring 84 new positions that will allow us to maintain the teacher to student ratio that was in place during the 17-18 school year. Mrs. Carvalho stated that means that we are able to address the increased enrollment in the district without affecting class size. Mrs. Carvalho stated that, finally, she is pleased to announce that the 2018-2019 budget includes a 0% local tax increase. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we continue to make our best efforts to provide excellent instruction for our students while holding the line on taxes for our City’s residents. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the taxpaying residents of our community who helped the Elizabeth Public Schools help provide the City of Elizabeth with a high quality award-winning urban school system of which you can be proud.

Mrs. Carvalho presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for those wishing to speak for or against the budget who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. The following rules for public participation shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced;
2. No personal attacks on individuals;
3. No vulgar or indecent language;
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting;

5. Speakers should refrain from naming individuals;
6. Comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated.

As a reminder this is not a debate nor an audit but an opportunity for citizens to present objections and to be heard with respect to the budget.”

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, stated that she reviewed the budget and it is quite unrealistic. Mrs. Lorenz stated that the number of children with autism is increasing and spoke about the reductions in the special education budget. Mrs. Lorenz stated that there are reductions in the before and after school, summer, and guidance budgets and asked where the care is for our students.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments. Since there was no one else who wished to speak, Mrs. Carvalho declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer to present the 2018-2019 Budget.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the presentation of the proposed 2018-2019 School Year Budget of the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked everyone for the countless hours spent working on developing the budget including the principals, vice principals, supervisors, directors, members of the cabinet, business office, and accountants. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Board of Education for their continuous support who invest a great deal of time reviewing the programs, course offerings, and ensure that we live up to the motto of every child achieving excellence.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is important to provide a summary of who we serve and the composition of our district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are the third largest school district in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have 29 PreK-8 schools including 2 gifted and talented schools, 4 magnet schools, 20 neighborhood schools, and 3 early childhood schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have 7 theme-based high school academies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the total number of students is 28,557 and growing by the day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the district ethnicity is 71.1% Hispanic, 18.5% Black, 8.0% White, 1.6% Asian, and 0.8% Other. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the composition of the students we serve includes 12.2% PreK students, 63.1% elementary students, and 24.7% high school students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the education status of the students includes 68% general education, 20% English language learners, 11% special education, and 1% special education and English language learners. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 80.8% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is happy that the message for this upcoming school year is not one of challenges or shared sacrifices as she has communicated in past years. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is on the contrary and she is incredibly grateful to Governor Murphy for his support for the fact that he has pledged his firm support for our urban school districts and education overall in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our school district has received an additional \$17.2 million for this upcoming school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she would be remiss if she did not acknowledge the Education Law Center that carried the torch for many years reminding everyone about the struggles of urban school districts and the Abbott v. Burke decision. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the message has not fallen on deaf ears and our Governor has indicated that he will continue to support education in the next four years. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is an incredible message for us especially for all of us here that have

gone through some very difficult times in years past. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked our Governor and stated that she is grateful for his support.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have always built a budget that follows our three guiding principles, equity, high expectations, and excellence for all of our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our work is also guided by our strategy map. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our vision is to be one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our promise to all of our students is to provide an innovative and personalized learning environment that ensures that every child achieves excellence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the goals we have defined include college preparedness, career readiness, and on-time graduation for every child. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the strategy map has a total of 18 indicators to support six core areas that guide our work each and every day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our foundation includes our core beliefs and commitments, theory of action, and our three guiding principles that serve as a support for this organization.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked how we define college and career readiness and stated that it began with an equity goal. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the equity goal is that we believe all students can learn and achieve at high levels regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, household income or home language. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our commitment to the goal is that we will narrow the achievement gaps of students by providing a high quality education to ensure that all of our students are college and career ready. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we defined our promise goals and how it is that we are going to measure our work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is the commitment by 2020 that 100% of EPS graduates will meet the requirements to enter a 2 or 4-year college, a technical school, or service to our nation and/or will hold a license or certificate enabling them to enter the workforce; 90% of EPS graduates will enroll in at least one Advanced Placement course before graduating and maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher throughout high school; and 90% of EPS students will graduate on time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide from the NJ School Performance Report showing the student groups. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they have met the targets in English language arts and met 15 out of 16 targets in mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide from the NJ School Performance Report showing the participation and performance in advanced placement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 100% of our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have enrolled in at least one or more advanced placement courses compared to 41.5% of students in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 100% of EPS 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students took one or more advanced placement exams as compared to 34.5% of students in the State. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next area is students with one or more exams with a score of at least 3 on advanced placement exams and the district is at 22.1% while the State is only at 24.3% and the gap is quite small. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are incredibly proud of this data but it does not mean that we are not expected to improve on these outcomes. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the career and technical education participation and that the concentration district scores also surpass those of the State of New Jersey for earning credentials in health sciences. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is an area that for which we have been recognized in the past and we are continuing to make great strides. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are not just a PreK-12 organization and our work does not end the moment our children leave our doors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our work is centered on the fact that we want our students to be successful when they enter college. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the college enrollment rate for students enrolled in college the Fall immediately after high school from the National Student Clearing House from 2009 through 2016. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2016 56% of graduates were enrolled in college the Fall immediately after high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the percent of students enrolled in college at any time during the first year after high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are able to track our students' interests and it also serves as an opportunity to reflect on how well we are preparing our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this shows our ability to prepare our students from

preschool all throughout high school to make sure that they are prepared and successful when they graduate from the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is proud to announce that our district has been selected to be part of the *Redefining Ready!* cohort which is a national initiative launched by the School Superintendents Association. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our district was selected because of the work we are doing based on the promise goals, our steps to success, and various systems that we have put in place in order to ensure our students are college and career ready.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the process for development of the 2018-2019 budget consisted of five phases. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the first phase was gathering input from the stakeholders. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the second phase was determining the needs of the organization based on the October 15<sup>th</sup> ASSA enrollment data and then we created a class-size analysis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the third phase was determining the priorities and adjusting the budget and included face-to-face meetings with all the principals, review of all curricular inventories and requests, face-to-face meetings with all instructional and operational directors, and a comparative analysis of expenditures for 2017-2018 versus proposed budgets. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next phase was the budget review process including a line-by-line department budget review, allocation of funds within the school-based budgets based on enrollment, programs, and equitable need, review by the forensic auditor and a final review by the EBOE Finance Committee. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last phase is where we are now, the Budget Hearing.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the NJ Department of Education has budget development priorities including maintaining our school system, building professionalism-resources, raising standards and expanding opportunities, protecting our investment, and planning for the future. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget goals for maintaining our school system include adequate staffing for instruction, increase in supplies, equipment, and textbook allocations for new students, academic programs, safe and caring initiatives, home and school relationships, academic safety nets, athletic and co-curricular activities, student assessment, and technology. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing that the school enrollment has increased dramatically over the last 10 years from 21,308 students in 2007-2008 to 28,557 students in 2017-2018. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the projected increase in enrollment for next year is 857 students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the 2017-2018 teacher to student ratio for grade levels and subject areas. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2018-2019 budget includes 74 new K-12 teachers and an increase in supplies, equipment, and textbook allocations for an anticipated 3% increase in new students in our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the 84 new staffing positions funded in the 2018-2019 budget. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the new budget includes additional independent reading classroom libraries for grades K-1, novels for grade 3, language arts and mathematics refurbishment including bilingual, ESL, and special education; AgileMind intensified algebra, AgileMind accelerator for grades 6-8, Mathematics: Teach to One for grades 5-7, Mathematics: Pearson System of Courses for grades 6-10, and a new textbook series for AP Calculus. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was selected as one of four districts in the United States for the Children's Literacy Initiative i3 Grant and 2018-2019 is the third year of the program with six schools continuing to receive services worth more than \$135,000. a year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes Pearson digital-first math program for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning at Battin School No. 4 and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes science literacy refurbishment including bilingual, ESL, and special education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new in the budget is a selection of bilingual (Spanish) resource books that will be added to support English Language Learners (ELLs). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes social studies refurbishment including bilingual, ESL, and special education and refurbishment of world language, music, art, physical education/health, library, technology, CTE, and promotion/retention language arts literacy and mathematics. Mrs.

Hugelmeyer stated that new in the budget is the expansion of world language (Spanish) to grade 3 and grade 7, and offering theater in grade 4 and dance in grades K-5 at the elementary schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget also includes curricular revisions in grades 6-8 courses for the performing arts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Grant in partnership with New York University with an emphasis on supporting STEM programs for bilingual grade 5 students districtwide and the project highlights language intensive science and engineering practices with a focus on English Language Learners. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that EPS is continuing their partnership with NYU to enhance STEM + C. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is happy to announce that the Elizabeth Public Schools was invited to apply for Digital Promise which is a program from the US Department of Education that supports the integration of computational thinking into middle school STEM content through coaching. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing with the National Academy Foundation partnerships for grades 9-12 at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing the International Baccalaureate Program at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have a new partnership with Southern Regional Educational Board and Federal Express that is expanding CTE opportunities to include global logistic and supply chain management. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are expanding our partnership with NJIT Virtual Reality to include Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy and sustaining it at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy is being upgraded to a National Academy of Finance Model status. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is participating in Building Capacity for Career Pathways Grant, which is a multi-year limited competitive grant that supports comprehensive high school districts with up to \$100,000. in grant funds per year.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as part of our budget the safe and caring initiatives include the contracted alternative education programs for at-risk learners, nursing services, speech/OT/PT services, chief medical inspector, sign language interpreter services, student drug screening, substance abuse coordinator services, expanding nursing services, expanding social worker services, expanding child study team services, American Red Cross CPR training, high school Saturday programs, and contracted behavioral services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in our budget is courtesy transportation for students attending magnet programs, preschoolers that live outside of a specified area, and homeless, displaced, and foster children. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have 11 schools currently participating in the NJ PBSIS which is a collaboration between the NJDOE, Office of Special Education Programs, Rutgers Boggs Center, and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is funded through the IDEA Part B Funds. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that two additional schools will be selected by the NJDOE to participate in the PBSIS for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this year two schools participated in the School Climate Transformation Project (SCTP) and two additional schools will be selected by NJDOE for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2018-2019 school year home and school relationships include newsletters, PowerSchool Student Information System, Learning Management System – iLeap Next Gen (Blackboard), IEP Direct, parent academies, community education program and community services, K-12 central registration, student and parent handbooks, communication materials and brochures designed to promote school and district programs, district website, operation of video channel, junior/senior/parent FAFSA seminars and high school information sessions, and IEP Direct/RTI Direct/504 Direct. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the academic safety nets include summer remediation and advanced credit for grades 9-12, promotion-retention program for K-8, home instruction, Reading is Essential to Adolescent Development (READ) for grades K-3, Algebraic Thinking for grades 6-8, Developing Mathematical Understanding grades 4-5, recreation program for special education, and extended school year program for special education students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the before and

after school basic skills and enrichment programs include after school enrichment program for grades K-8, Saturday SAT Prep Program for grades 9-12, APEX Credit Recovery grades 9-12, Saturday recreation program for special education, and the high school after school clubs for grades 9-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the academic interventions include the expansion to two additional schools of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for grades 6-12 and refurbishment of Leveled Literacy Intervention Systems and Orton-Gillingham Multi-sensory reading program for struggling readers, Mondo Let's Talk About It Oral Language Reading and Writing Program, Handwriting Without Tears, Moving with Math extensions in K-8, MathXL, and Touch Math. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 2018-2019 budget includes programs for special education students including Touchmath for grades K-8, 504 Related Services, extended school year program for K-12, contracted speech services, OT/PT/ABA services, Rethink, U.C.E.S.C. Partnership for Transition, Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia, and Handwriting Without Tears. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as part of the budget the programs for English Language Learners include Bilingual Magnet (Spanish) for grades 4-8, Bilingual Magnet (Arabic) for grade 3, Point of Entry for grades 9-12, and Centralized Point of Entry for grade 9. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the home instruction includes contracted providers for hospital home instruction and after school home instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as part of the 2018-2019 budget the athletic and co-curricular activities include athletic summer camps, middle school intramural sports program, high school athletic program and summer band camp, NJ State Police Top Physical Challenge, YMCA Health Bee, NJ Special Olympics Play Unified, and Play 60. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the student assessments include high school graduation portfolio appeals, state testing program, DRA2/EDL, PSAT/SAT assessments, AP assessments, Pre-IPT & Bilingual New Entrant Testing & APA/LM, NWEA online formative assessment system, translations of student assessments, formative assessment benchmarks, student growth objectives assessments, and VBMAPP. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the technology includes classroom support, internal and external communication, technology training, individual school/teacher web pages, PARCC maintenance of internal bandwidth capacity, staff email system, continuing to provide students in grades 6-12 with individual email addresses, renewal of software license for literacy and math programs, maintenance of equipment for TV studio grades 9-12, maintenance of One-to-One initiative for grades 3-12, EdConnect instructional improvement, financial systems, human resources system, payroll system, accounts payable system, and budgeting system, maintenance of transportation software system, maintenance of automated telephone messaging system and two-way radio network, maintenance of telephone system K-12, video conferencing K-12, and MyACCESS Vantage Learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the intervention and enrichment programs include Destination Imagination, First Lego League, Girls Who Code, Engineering is Elementary, NASA Explorer School, and Technology Student Association. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that technology also includes the Khan Academy as a supplementary resource for mathematics curriculum, Microsoft Translator coupled with one-to-one mobile devices allowing our students to translate written and verbal languages and text embedded in images, MS OneNote and Classrooms Notebook which is an application to create a virtual document binder or notebook, and TenMarks practice and review based curricula to help reinforce math concepts for students in first grade through Algebra II.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget goals for raising standards and expanding opportunities include resources to close the achievement gap, college and career readiness, visual and performing arts enrichment, and review of instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the 2018-2019 budget the resources to close the achievement gap for each student include guidance counselors to track and monitor out-of-district placements of special needs students, leveled curricular materials and culturally relevant supplemental classroom libraries, Spanish and Arabic Magnet, Point of Entry for English Language Learners, native language curricular materials, EdConnect data system and data analysts to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each student, consultants to examine the curriculum of inclusion, 15 hour sheltered instruction module

for all instructors, and a summer transition program for grade 9. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that college and career readiness includes a commitment to dual enrollment programs and maintaining partnerships with NJIT and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy offering students to graduate with college credits; New Jersey City University and the J. Christian Bollwage Academy of Finance to offer students the opportunity to graduate with college credits; and Fairleigh Dickinson University offering students the opportunity to graduate with college credits. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the visual and performing arts enrichment includes the Teen Arts Program, the summer arts institute for students, music, theater, orchestra, and the high school performing arts after school program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the review of instruction includes the revisions of curricula, benchmarks, and iObservation.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget goals for building professionalism include mentoring first year teachers and new teacher training, differentiated instruction, personalized learning environments, English language arts and mathematics training including bilingual and special education, literacy training, professional networking on best practices and new pedagogies, training for world language, music, art, physical education/health, library, technology, CTE, and promotion/retention language arts literacy and mathematics, and HIB law.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget goals for protecting our investment include capital projects, maintenance projects, and capital reserve projects. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the 2018-2019 budget the capital projects and maintenance projects include replacing chalkboard with whiteboards at Winfield Scott School No. 2, replacing the intercom at Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, upgrading the intercom system at Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, air conditioning in the small gym at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, replacing all the blinds at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, repairing windows at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, upgrading the master lock and clock system at Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, replacing blinds in classrooms throughout Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, installing whiteboards at Madison-Monroe School No. 16, upgrading the intercom system at John Marshall School No. 20, and replacing chalkboard with whiteboards at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the capital reserve and maintenance projects include auditorium renovations at two schools, installing univents in classrooms and office, replacement of auditorium seats, new boilers at two schools, repairing the window lintels, replacing artificial turf, and replacing interactive boards. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the proposed projects financed via lease purchase including adding air conditioning to Winfield Scott School No. 2, Christopher Columbus School No. 15, and Madison-Monroe School No. 16; replacing the main roof and repair parapet to Joseph Battin School No. 4; replacing the roof section of Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Elmora School No. 12, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, Robert Morris School No. 18, and Christopher Columbus School No. 15; and overhaul of the chillers at Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 and Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that protecting our investment includes creating the Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 Annex by leasing the property of the former Bender Memorial and will add 9.5 teachers, nurse, security, custodian, secretary, administrator, and 4 classroom assistants.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra to present the financials.

Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra stated that tonight he is presenting the financials for the 2018-2019 School Year Budget. Mr. Malhotra stated that the vast majority of the revenue will come from New Jersey State Aid, \$443,181,394., which is 82.6% of our revenue. Mr. Malhotra stated that the next largest source of our revenue will come from the local Elizabeth taxpayer, \$59,813,124., which is 11.1% of our budget, federal aid is \$18,361,582., which is 3.4%, balance appropriation is \$14,262,687., which is 2.7%, and miscellaneous revenue is \$1,222,989., which is .2% for a total budget of \$536,841,776. Mr. Malhotra stated that there is \$0 debt service.



Mr. Malhotra stated that our budget expenditures include \$426,109,276. for instruction which is 79.4%, of our total budget, \$17,260,444. for administration which is 3.2%, \$48,695,372. for operation and maintenance of plant which is 9.1%, \$44,776,684. for other which includes community services, employee benefits, transportation, and capital outlay which is 8.3% of our budget.

Mr. Malhotra stated that the 2018-2019 comparative per pupil cost is \$16,335. per student and includes \$10,078. for classroom instruction, \$64. for equipment costs, community services and special schools, \$2,297. for cleaning, repair, and maintenance of our schools, plant and property, \$137. for athletics and extracurricular activities, \$2,381. for support services including health, guidance, child study teams, library, and professional development, and \$1,378. for central administration, school administration, business services, human resources, telephone and postage. Mr. Malhotra stated that the State of New Jersey regional administration cost per student is \$2,091. and here in Elizabeth the cost for our administration is \$1,378. per student.

Mr. Malhotra stated that the 2018-2019 budget and tax levy proposed is in accordance with the rules and regulations as promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Education. Mr. Malhotra stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools prepares its budget following instructions incorporated into the Budget Guidelines and Electronic Collection Manual published by the NJDOE Office of Finance. Mr. Malhotra stated that the instructions ensure that budgets and information submitted for approval to the Executive County Superintendent and Business Administrator are complete and correct.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Mr. Malhotra for his presentation.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the return on our investment includes four Elizabeth Public Schools exiting Focus School Status, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this past year the Elizabeth Public Schools opened and dedicated the new William F. Halloran School No. 22, dedicated the J. Christian Bollwage Academy of Finance in honor of the City of Elizabeth Mayor Bollwage, and dedicated the Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical 9<sup>th</sup> Grade @ Charles Harris Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 to observe the innovative Teach-to-One math program from New Classrooms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the NJ Department of Education Commissioner visited the Elizabeth Public Schools and observed the CLI Instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public School students prepared for postsecondary education at the 2017 College Fair featuring top academic institutions from throughout the United States, EPS held a special needs resource fair, held a Hurricane Maria resource fair, participated in the Stuff-a-Bus for disaster relief, hosted Jets Play 60 Program Kickoff Event, and partnered with the Elizabeth Police Department for the Crossing Safety initiative. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth High School students voiced their concerns to elected officials at town hall meetings to take action against gun violence, students participated in Rutgers Youth Engineering Day, students participated in Estuary Day raising awareness of environment, and students attended Academy Day for the United States Service Academies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that John E. Dwyer Technology Academy was granted Honor Society charters, students participated in Leading Toward the Future, and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 was recognized by Eco-Schools USA as a Green Flag school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 ranked among the top 25 schools in New Jersey and was named a 2018 NJ School of Character. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Elizabeth High School ranked among the top 30 high schools in New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the WE Charities recognized Shernick Barthelus, eighth grade student at Joseph Battin School No. 4, as a special guest at the WE Day Broadcast and Event in Los Angeles, California, and presented her with a \$5,000. grant. Mrs.

Hugelmeyer stated that Supervisor of Physical Education, Health and Safety Joseph Przytula received the 2018 NJAHPERD Physical Activity Champion Award. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a student from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was accepted to three universities at the HBCU College Fair, a student from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy received Honorable Mention in a New Jersey State Bar Foundation Courtroom Artist Contest, and a former EPS bilingual student attended NJIT and is now employed at Google. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Rifle Team earned the top shot at Reading and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Dallastown. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Athletics Fall 2017 highlights include Clarence Wilkins selected to 1<sup>st</sup> Team Defense Football; the Elizabeth High School Boys Soccer Team was ranked No. 19 in New Jersey, No. 8 in Group 4 by The Star Ledger and Union County Co-Champions; Henry Chavez was selected to 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, All Group 4 Boys Soccer; Henry Chavez and Jose Amaya were selected for 1<sup>st</sup> Team and Cesar Pereira, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team for All Union County Boys Soccer; Mariaelena Torres was selected as 1<sup>st</sup> Team for All Conference Girls Soccer; and Alejandra Echeverry and Narcise Gelin were selected as Girls Volleyball 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Conference and Girls Volleyball was selected as All Conference by The Star Ledger. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Elizabeth Athletics Winter 2017-2018 highlights include Boys Varsity Winter Track including Gabriel Nash, 55m Dash 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State, first Elizabeth athlete to win a Meet of Champions indoor track event since 1991 at the NJSIAA Meet of Champions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Group 4 Champions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place NJSIAA North 2 Group 4; Relay Team 5<sup>th</sup> Place NJSIAA Group 4 Championships; Guinove Joanus - 55m Dash 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Ahmiel Allen - 55m Hurdles 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Facundo Luna - High Jump 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Tajhir Tate - Shot Put 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Mujeeb Ali - Shot Put 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Relay Team 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 4 x 400m Relay NJSIAA North 2 Group 4 Championships; Union County Indoor Relay Track Champions include Tajhir Tate – Shot Put 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Dakota Acosta – Shot Put 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Relay Team 4 x 400m 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Relay Team 4 x 800m 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Relay Team 4 x 200m 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Relay Team 4 x 55m 5<sup>th</sup> Place; Girls Varsity Winter Track NJSIAA North 2 Group 4 Championships: Destinee Everett-Scott – 55m Dash 3<sup>rd</sup> Place; Yah-sha-rah Brathwaite – 400 m Dash 5<sup>th</sup> Place; Union County Indoor Relay Track Champions Relay Team 4 x 400m 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and Relay Team 4 x 200m 4<sup>th</sup> Place; Varsity Wrestling NJSIAA District 13 Championships: Malachi Dye – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 160 lbs., Christopher Candelario – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 120 lbs., Jason Moreno – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 132 lbs., Lawaan Harris – 3<sup>rd</sup> place 220 lbs.; Union County Championships: Malachi Dye – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 160 lbs., and Lawaan Harris – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place 220 lbs.; Boys Swimming Team: 200 yard Medley Relay Record Time 1:51.41 by Dylan Carvalho, Hugo Rebolledo, Alfredo Rojas, and Bladimir Rojas, and they also set the record in the 200 yard Free Relay; Girls Swimming Team including the 200 yard Freestyle Relay Record Time 1:59.27 set by Lady Cabral, Valentina Cano, Gisselle Negron, and Paula Tamayo, set their best time at the Union County Tournament with a new record time of 1:54.52, and broke records in the 200 yard Medley Relay and 400 yard Freestyle Relay with a record time of 4:12.93. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a Thomas Jefferson Arts student received an athletic scholarship to Catawba College. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was named a 2018 Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Marching Band won the Tournament of Bands Competition, three EHS Frank J. Cicarell Academy students qualified for Region II Jazz Band, Winfield Scott School No. 2 hosted a Jazz House Kids Residency program, EHS Band and String Orchestra played side-by-side with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated the Elizabeth Public School artists have their work on display at the Union County Teen Arts Showcase. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that three schools were recognized for their commitment to healthy eating by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture as Jersey Fresh including Very Important Produce (VIP) first place award winners George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place VIP award winner Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that EPS participates in the National Healthy Schools Program and the Alliance for a

Healthier Generation that is in partnership with the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide, “We are committed to create an equitable budget with high expectations and a budget that underscores our focus on college and career readiness. Once again, this budget year has presented extraordinary challenges for our learning community and the taxpayer. There continues to be a sizable increase in our student population which has placed a strain on our resources. With that challenge, we continue moving forward with a commitment to equity, expectations, and excellence. The commitment to our core values and our concern for the welfare of the City requires us to work arduously to present a budget that our community can support. I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of this school district which has a rich legacy and commitment in setting a high standard for our children. Our high expectations balanced with the financial pressures we face will require us to seek input from everyone in the learning community. We could not have accomplished so much without the commitment and leadership of our Board of Education, union partners, and the support of the community at large. Thank you so much for your support.”

“The Board of Education and Central Office believe in an open and transparent budget process, all Board of Education meetings are open to the public, and agendas and meeting minutes are available at [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org). Copies of the tentative 2018-2019 budget are on file at the Board of Education Mitchell Building and a copy of the proposed budget is posted online at the district’s website, [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org).”

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this concludes the budget presentation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is truly representative of a budget that is in accordance with our guiding principles, equity, high expectations, and excellence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked everyone who works in our organization and stated that this is true service leadership of which we are a part. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on a day like today, Bring Your Child to Work Day, it is such a wonderful opportunity to be able to share what we do on a day-to-day basis and have our children experience it and the commitment to the children that we serve. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked everyone for the opportunity to present this evening a budget which truly captures our priorities and is representative of an investment in all areas.

Board President Carvalho thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer.

#### Resolution – Adoption of the 2018-2019 School Year Budget

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, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho asked for comments from the Board members.

Mr. Neron commended the entire team for their arduous work in allowing us to get to this point in our journey to excellence and equity. Mr. Neron stated that we have been focused on establishing a vision that would catapult this district to another level and become a national model. Mr. Neron stated that through the presentation that we are hearing tonight we see that we are just one step further of getting to that point. Mr. Neron commended the entire team on their great work and working together as a team and supporting us. Mr. Neron commended his fellow Board members for the great work that they have done in getting to this point and actually working as a Board. Mr. Neron stated that they have done a lot of work coming together to get

to this point and really start understanding the education process to move forward and supporting your goals. Mr. Neron thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer and the entire team.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the staff for their hard work and thanked the team for their work. Mrs. Moreno Ortega thanked everyone for everything they do every single day and stated that she really appreciates it.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked Mr. Malhotra and his team, Mr. Kennedy, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, all of our directors, supervisors, principals, vice principals, staff, from the person who opens the door in the morning for the children to the last one who closes the door. Mrs. Carvalho stated that none of this can happen without you. Mrs. Carvalho stated that together we have all put together a budget that is going to give us a good year and we are one step ahead of the game. Mrs. Carvalho thanked each and every one for what we call a team.

On a motion made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Negative: None

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