

BOARD OF EDUCATION

(Approved June 27, 2024
Board Meeting)

May 9, 2024
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely welcomed everyone to the May 9, 2024, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 5:30 p.m. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, this is a combined regular agenda and business 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 12, 2024. In addition, this notice is posted in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street and has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.

“We want to welcome everyone present here at School No. 51, and to our television viewers to this April 18, 2024, 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 for the recording to adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking.

We 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.

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must personally sign in prior to the start of the public comment portion 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.”

We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Present: Mmes. Carvalho, (joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.), Chevres, (joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.), Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely -8

Absent: Barbosa

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Chief of Operations, Francisco

Cuesta, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and Co-General Counsel Michael Simitz Esq. of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of the following:

Victoria Eugenia Cruz-Calella, Social Worker, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 and
Madison-Monroe School No. 16

Annemarie Crilly Infante, Fourth Grade Teacher, John Marshall School No. 20

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member, Maria Carvalho

The Star-Spangled Banner was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Vice President, Stan Neron

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely read the following statement:

Citizens may address the Board.

“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. 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 comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies were provided next to the sign in sheet)”.

The following rules shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced.
2. No personal attacks on individuals or naming of individuals.
3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Comments will not be debated.

Any person in violation of the Policy will be warned, and their comments terminated if needed. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting.”

“As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

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

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about a consultation meeting with the Special Education Department.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely thanked her for her comments.

Board president Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely called upon the next person, Christine Moreira to speak to the Board.

Ms. Moreira spoke about Special Education.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely thanked her for her comments.

Since there were no other public participants signed up to address the Board, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely introduced a video which featured this month's Board Initiative led by Board Member Rosa Moreno-Ortega. This month's initiative was Teacher Appreciation, and the many ways the District is recognizing & supporting our wonderful teachers. The video will be available on the District's website. Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely thanked Mrs. Moreno-Ortega for efforts in presenting this month's initiative.

The Board President asked Mrs. Hugelmeyer to introduce the Student Representative to the Board.

The Superintendent began her remarks by recognizing the principal of Elizabeth High School, Frank J Cicarell Academy – Mr. Michael Cummings. She stated that tonight's student representative, Vincent Zeferino, is a school improvement panel member at Elizabeth High School, Frank J Cicarell Academy and takes an active role with teachers, parents, and administrators to improve teaching and learning. Vincent is a member of student government, a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized by the College Board as an AP Scholar for passing three (3) or more Advanced Placement Exams. He maintains a 4.3 GPA and has a passion for his school and community and volunteers at many community events. It is an honor and pleasure to have Vincent represent Elizabeth High School, Frank J. Cicarell Academy as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for the May meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Zeferino to join the rest of the Board on the dais.

Board President Mrs. Dorgely asked Mrs. Ford to have the record reflect Mr. Zeferino's 's attendance at tonight's meeting. It was noted as so, by Ms. Ford.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented her report to the Community.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer showed a slide and recapped the Elizabeth Family Festival that was hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy. This festival gave students, families, and residents the opportunity to obtain information on services, programs, and assistance on the local, municipal, county and state levels. The festival was very well attended with over 3,000 people in attendance.

The Superintendent spoke about Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10) and reiterated the remarks of Mrs. Moreno-Ortega in recognizing and expressing gratitude for all the Teachers in our school system.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer also thanked all our School Nurses as part of National Nurse Week and specifically recognized Wednesday May 8th as School Nurse Day.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer noted that Mr. Kennedy, the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, was not at tonight's meeting. He is at his son's (Danny Kennedy) graduation ceremony from the County College of Morris Nursing School. In addition, to graduating, Danny is the student commencement speaker for his class. All Board Members expressed their congratulations to Danny and the Kennedy Family.

The Superintendent reported that in the latest edition of US News and World Reports, listed in the Best High School Rankings was Elizabeth High School, Frank J. Cicarell Academy at No. 23 in NJ and No. 436 in the United States while Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked No. 63 in NJ and 1,129 in the country.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer reminded the audience and school community that due to the closures of schools and administrative offices on January 19 and February 13, the Elizabeth Public Schools calendar has been revised as follows:

June 24 (Monday) – Schools close at 12:15 for Students and Team Members.

June 25 (Tuesday) – Schols close at 12:15 for 10-month Administrators.

The Superintendent announced that the New Jersey Student Learning assessments will be administered from May 1st to May 23rd. The schedule is as follows:

- Grade Level 3-5 English Language Arts – May 6-7/Math May 13-15/Science May 1-2 Grade 5 only.
- Grade Level 6-8 English Language Arts - May 8-9/Math May 20-22 6th-7th Grade Math, May 20 - 21 MS Algebra and Geometry/Science May 1-2 Grade 8 only.
- High School Grade 9 English Language Arts / Math May 20 - May 21 Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2. Science May 22- 23 Grade 11.

Parents and students will be informed of the testing schedules via letters, posts on the District web site, and by classroom reminders.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer informed the audience about the 31st annual Excellence Awards Dinner will be held on May 23rd. The top performing students in the District are recognized and their achievements are celebrated at this joyous event.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer presented a series of slides showing the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies.

Thursday, June 20th at 9:00 a.m.

- George Washington Academy School No. 1
- Abraham Lincoln School No. 14
- Madison – Monroe School No. 16
- Robert Morris School No. 18
- John Marshall School No .20
- Victor Mravlag School No. 21
- Sonia Sotomayor School No .25
- Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27
- Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29
- Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

Thursday, June 20th at 1:00 p.m.

- Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3
- Joseph Battin School No. 4
- Toussaint L'Overture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

- Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- iPrep Academy School No. 8
- Benjamin Franklin School No. 13
- Woodrow Wilson School No. 19
- Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

Thursday, June 20th

- Winfield Scott School No.2
- Mabel G. Holmes School No.5
- Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9
- Elmora School No. 12
- Christopher Columbus School No.15
- William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23
- Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28

Mrs. Hugelmeyer announced that due to the change in the school calendar, High School Graduation /Class Award Ceremonies Dates had to be adjusted. Please see the new dates for each High School: Please note that all ceremonies take place at the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center. This information has been posted on the District website.

- Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy – June 24th at 8:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 7:30 a.m.
- Thomas A Edison Career and Technical Academy -June 24th. At 11:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 10:30 a.m.
- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy – June 24th at 2:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 1:30 p.m.
- J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy – June 24th – at 5:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 4:30 p.m.
- Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy – June 25th at 8:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 7:30 a.m.
- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson STEM Academy – June 25th at 11:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 10:30 a.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy – June 25th at 2:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 1:30 p.m.
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy – June 25th 5:30 p.m. with an arrival time at 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer said that the District is continuing to put together Parent Development Workshops as a series of events throughout the District. More Information regarding these workshops may be found on the Elizabeth Public Schools website. Once on the web site you can click on the Parent Development Workshops icon at the top of the district home page, ([www. Epsnj.org](http://www.Epsnj.org)) or under the multimedia gallery.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely asked if there were any questions or comments from any Board Members. Board Vice President, Stan Neron joined in thanking the District's teachers for their outstanding efforts and they deserve the accolades being given during National Teacher's week. He also thanked First Lady Tammy Murphy for her work in initiating and hosting the Family Festival/Family Resource fair at the Dunn Sports Center. Mr. Neron

thanked the Superintendent and his fellow Board members for their hard work prior to and their participation in the event. With the influx of new people to our district and city it is imperative that they be made aware of the services and assistance they can receive from various resources.

Board President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely commenced a review of the evening's agenda.

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (April 17,18, 2024) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (March 2024) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report- Board Member Maria Carvalho asked whether an Athletic Trainer who was transferring to a teaching position would be replaced. Mr. Candelino replied that the transfer would not take effect until the start of the new school year. In the meantime, Mr. Candelino will be working on a job posting as well as looking at an internal candidate who has assisted the Athletic Training staff in the past.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 4a/4b/4bb/4c)

Tab 4a was added to the Agenda

Tab 4b was added to the Agenda

4bb page 1 – Mrs. Carvalho questioned whether the Gathering, a group that rents our facilities, is an Elizabeth based organization. A member of Mr. Kennedy's staff answered that the Gathering was a religious organization whose pastor lives on Pearl Street and has been renting our facilities for a number of years.

Tab 4bb was added to the Agenda

Tab 4c -Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely had Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Mr. Rafael Cortes, summarize the Field Trips being presented at this meeting. There are 109 Field trips to be approved this evening, and 793 Field trips have been completed Year to Date.

Tab 4c was added to the Agenda.

Tabs 4d - Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented the H.I.B. Report for the latest reporting period.

HIB Presentation for the May Board of Education Meeting

5/9/24

1.) Pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, 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."

2.) Since our last Board of Education meeting on April 18, 2024, and through May 1, 2024, our school counselors, and school based social workers have completed 28 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 7 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 14 males, 14 females, 21 regular education students and 7 special education students that were the alleged victims. There were 26 males, 12 females, 33 regular education students, 5 special education students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 7 cases Founded

for HIB, 3 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 2 cases were Founded based on a Mental, Physical or Sensory Disability and 6 cases were Founded based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 11 skill development lessons/trainings, 24 counseling sessions, 5 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 4 changes of classroom, 1 change of school placement, 2 administrative counseling sessions, 10 in school detentions, 19 parent conferences, 3 referrals to outside agencies, 6 out of school suspensions, and 7 cases are continuing to be monitored.

3.) The HIB statute further requires that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after board members receive the initial report of HIB investigations, that the Board issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent's decision pertaining to the 27 cases that was reported to you at the last Board meeting on April 18, 2024. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations, which were reported to you at the last board meeting, have been provided for your review prior to voting.

Tab 4d was added to the Agenda.

Tab 5, - Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely asked that the first Authorization to accept funds be changed from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to read the Union County Board of Commissioners.

Mrs. Moreno Ortega asked for more information regarding the Empower Somerset Partnership specifically on how it intertwines with May being Mental Health Awareness Month.

The Board President asked Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cedeno whether Thank you letters had been sent out for the various donations the Board receives. Beginning with the Month of May, Thank You letters would be sent to donors.

Tab 5) Authorizations Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 5a) 2024-2025 School Calendar was tabled to be reviewed in Private session.

Tab 6 – Mrs. Carvalho asked for an update on the installation of the walk in Refrigerator and Freezer at the Warehouse (item 6). Mr. Milanes replied that the project is almost eighty-five percent complete. In addition, Mrs. Carvalho asked for the status of the Black Box Theater at Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Milanes was pleased to reply that the project had been completed.

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 6a) Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds was added to the Agenda.

Tab 7) Award of Contracts Report. – Mrs. Moreno Ortega asked for clarification on the contract with Panorama Education – developing and implementing Elizabeth Public School’s “Portrait of a Graduate”, as well as if the dates were correct on the contract. Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, explained that the contract would run through September 30, 2024, (The start of the new school year), so the dates were correct. During the next four months Panorama would be collaboratively working with various stakeholders to align our school operations and pedagogy to collectively define our vision for student success. This has been an ongoing process internally that Panorama will assist in helping the District finish the work.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely asked Mr. DiDonato how schools were selected for the Pet Therapy projects covered by the contract with Steve Markowitz. In reply, Mr. DiDonato said that schools applied to be part of the program and were selected where it was felt that students with behavioral challenges could be incentivized to participate and/or supported through this program.

The Board President inquired of Chief Information Officer Alberto Marsal, how the partnership with Microsoft is going? To date there have been no major issues.

Both Mrs. Carvalho and Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely had questions regarding the Bid Rejections by the Food and Nutrition Services Department that were listed on the agendas for this and the prior meeting. As Ms. Leavitt, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, was unable to attend this meeting, Superintendent Hugelmeyer said she would provide detailed information to the Board once she could confer with Ms. Leavitt.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely asked Mr. Marsal about the license renewal to maintain a Radio Repeater Tower on property owned by Chilton Towers on West Jersey St. in Elizabeth. Mr. Marsal explained this is a backup site used in case of systemic failures and/or emergencies that will allow the district to continue to maintain radio communications. Board member Carvalho later suggested that the District consult with other government entities to see if we could use local governmental buildings for these type of radio repeater installations.

The Board President followed with a question for Mr. Luis Milanes, Director of Plant, Property and Equipment regarding a contract with CDW. Mr. Milanes said that this was custodial audit program where work could be monitored via time and task. Discussion ensued on which buildings and how many sites should be part of the initial phase of the project. A decision made was to table this contract till the details could be discussed further.

Board Member Mrs. Moreno Ortega questioned whether the contract renewal with IXL Learning Inc, was just for Mathematics and English Language Arts and whether it was utilized during the regular school day. Dr. Kathy Badalis, Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs explained that this particular platform was used for Bilingual/ESL students and Special Education Students. It is primarily used as part of after school programs.

Mr. Jerry Jacobs asked in regard to the contract with SERVPRO of Central Union County what was water restoration services. Mr. Milanes explained that SERVPRO provides clean up, repairs and recovery services when leaks, broken pipes and minor damage occur in our buildings.

Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Milanes for a status update on the Honeywell Climate Control Project throughout the District. This will be provided to Mr. Jacobs.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer announced that on Friday May 10th, Tarah-Lynn Saint Elie would be a guest speaker at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy to commemorate Haitian American Heritage Month. Ms. Saint-Elie is a three-time published author, a fashion editor at Cosmopolitan magazine and an entrepreneur Through her writings she looks to inspire self confidence in others and encourages people to dream big in unconventional spaces. She provides guidance and mentorship to young girls and our students will be able to interact with Ms. Saint-Elie after her speech. Board Member Mr. Stan Neron added that Ms. Saint Elie is International Miss Haiti.

Tab 7 Award of Contracts was added to the Agenda with the Contract with CDW tabled.

Tab 8 Committee Reports

Education Management Committee Chair Mrs. Stephanie Goncalves Pestana presented the following:

Education Management Committee

May 1, 2024

4:00 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Attendees: Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member/Chairperson of the Education Management Committee; Maria Carvalho, Board Member, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Member, Michael Simitz, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent of Schools presented the district's improvement plan to the committee. The committee engaged in a discussion regarding the district's performance in English language arts, Mathematics, Science, and on-time graduation. The committee reviewed the professional development offerings, Learning Walk data, academic enrichment after school and Saturday program achievement data and social emotional learning professional development offerings and survey data. Additionally, information regarding the district's graduation tracker was shared with the committee as a system that monitors a student credit completion requirements. The committee also reviewed the 2022-2023 School Demographic Performance data for both English Language Arts and Mathematics. The committee concluded by reviewing the schools that exited status. The district currently only has three schools in status out of a total of 37 schools.

Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Jerry Jacobs presented the following:

Finance Committee

May 8, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Finance Committee; Stan Neron, Board Vice President, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, Rajeev Malhotra, Comptroller and Chris Brazzano, Insurance Broker.

Chris Brazzano spoke to the Finance Committee members about the 2023-2024 Health Benefits Program including paid claims for health, prescription, dental, and vision coverages. The Finance Committee discussed recommendations by the Insurance Broker for the renewal of health insurance coverages for the 2024-2025 school year which will be finalized at the May 9, 2024, board meeting.

The Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the three-year Overtime Report by the individual operations departments and the main drivers since 2021-2022.

Board Vice President and Chair of the Legal Committee, Stan Neron presented the following:

Legal Committee

May 9, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees: Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President; Stan Neron, Board Vice President/Legal Committee Chairperson, Iliana Chevres Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Michael Simitz, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Michael Oppici, Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

The committee discussed the status of open litigation matters and settlement agreements. The Legal Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the SEPAC policy and Board Self-Evaluation policy.

Board President Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely asked student representative Mr. Vincent Zeferino to present his report to the community.

Good evening esteemed members of the Elizabeth Board of education, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, Mr. Kennedy, and the public. My name is Vincent Zeferino, and I am honored to represent Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy once again. As Ms. Hugelmeyer said, I am passionate about serving and preserving our community. I have called Elizabeth home my entire life and for that reason, I am humbled to present to you this report on the status of the student body.

Elizabeth High School students constantly demonstrate their ingenuity and capability through extracurricular activities led and organized by the students themselves. FJC recently participated in the city-wide earth day cleanup; we had over 150 students participate in picking up 10 bags of trash throughout the Elizabeth community. We were excited to help give back to our community and am grateful for those who helped us coordinate this event.

At our other high schools, students continue to demonstrate their commitment to achievement and diversity. Hamilton recently held its one world festival, celebrating the diverse cultures that make up our communities, in addition, their junior achievement program successfully traveled to over 70 different classrooms teaching financial literacy to various schools including 6 and 27. Dwyer was recently awarded a garden grant from union county and looks forward to expanding its school garden. Jefferson recently held an AVID night and art exhibit, highlighting student achievement beyond the classroom. Halsey recently held an honor roll breakfast, incentivizing academic achievement.

During this past month, various academies hosted blood drives in partnership with the Red Cross, donating hundreds of pints of blood that can save countless lives. Elizabeth high schools will also be attending Teen Arts, demonstrating their commitment to creative excellence.

Throughout this past year the student representatives committed themselves to serving our community and representing our student bodies. We attended various holiday events, including two city tree lightings, we organized volunteers to distribute over 800 toys. We also participated in the city's annual Easter celebrations. With their support I organized events in partnership with local historical sites, sharing this city's rich history with our student body.

We are honored to have been able to give back to our community.

I'm honored to have been able to work with such an accomplished team who have achieved so much. Ashly Geraldo will be pursuing fashion at the Fashion Institute of Technology, the best school in the nation for fashion. Pricilla Jimenez is ranked number four in the state for impromptu speaking and will be attending finals in IOWA. Jeremiah Laporte was recently awarded a congressional certification for outstanding achievement for his contributions to his communities by representative Rob Menendez. Alondra Rashel Calva Giron recently won the Princeton university prize for race relations and will be attending Villanova university. Ingrid Osorio will be attending Kean university with a full scholarship to pursue her goal of being an elementary teacher. It has been a sincere pleasure working with them all.

As I reflect back on this past year, I am eternally grateful for the educators who always pushed me to grow, as well as my friends and family. Without them I would not be able to be here today.

Serving as student representative has been an incredible experience, I'm excited to pass the torch down to the next class and watch them bloom into strong leaders.

As we look toward the new year, it's important that we work to continue improving our district and enhancing student experiences. I am grateful to Mr. Cortes, who met with me this morning to listen and advocate for student concerns. I look forward to following up with him and pursuing impactful solutions.

I want to thank my friends and family as well my teachers at FJC, especially my principal Mr. Cummings whose support has allowed me to fulfill my dreams of speaking here tonight. I look forward to working with the board and am grateful for the opportunity to speak tonight, thank you.

Tab 9 Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely acknowledged the following celebrations:

- Haitian Heritage Month
- Portugal Day
- Cuban American day
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- National Nurses week & National School Nurses Day

Resolutions 10 to 10f were added to the Agenda.

Board President Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely noted that the School Calendar and the Contract with CDW were tabled.

Prior to going into Private Session, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely thanked the individual directors who attended the meeting as well as the Superintendent's cabinet, police officers, custodians, food service staff and the I.T. Department for supporting this meeting. In addition, she wished the Board and Audience a Happy Mother's Day and noted that she left cards for the mothers that were amongst us.

Mrs. Moreno Ortega congratulated board Vice President Stan Neron for being recognized for his ten years of service to the Elizabeth Board of Education by the Union County School Boards Association. She further thanked him for his help and assistance during her time on the Board. At this same meeting she said that Board Member Isaias Rivera received his Board certification. In concluding her remarks Mrs. Moreno Ortega thanked the Student Representatives who attended the Board Meetings this year and asked that the Board consider hearing from students at the Middle School level.

Mr. Neron thanked Mrs. Moreno Ortega for the acknowledgement and thanked Mr. Rivera for accepting the award on his behalf.

Mrs. Carvalho wanted to note that on tonight's agenda there were a s number of people who were retiring after some very significant years of service (25 to 41 years). She thanked them for their time and dedication to the Elizabeth School System.

Board Member Jerry Jacobs also acknowledged Mr. Neron's award by the Union County School Boards Association. He also added his best wishes to all the mothers in the city and around the world.

Board President, Mrs. Dorgely then asked for a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of:

Personnel Matters, specifically Reappointment of P.C., Termination of R.E. G contractual matters, Health Benefit Renewals, Policy Revisions, and the 2024/2025 School Calendar in alignment with the collective bargaining unit.

Legal matters, Litigation, specifically Workers Compensation Matters A.E. and M.B.

Contractual Matters – Authorization for Field trips and Educational Competition and entering into a partnership.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Neron to go into private session at 6:51 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely -8

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Moreno – Ortega to return to public session at 8:27 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Caravvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely – 8

Negative: none

The following items were added to the Agenda:

Resolution – Insurance Coverage Health Benefits -Aetna

Resolution – Insurance Coverage Prescription – Benecard

Resolution – Insurance Coverage Dental – Aetna

Resolution – Transfer of Roberto Cerbone

Resolution – Termination of Employment - R.E.G. IV.

Resolution – Return to Work- P.A.C.

Resolution – Adoption of Revised Exhibit 9400 (X)-Board Self-Evaluation Form

Settlement Agreement- C.M. o/b/o E.M.

Settlement Agreement – R.V. o/b/o L.P.

Authorization to Enter into partnership for Dreams Project at no cost to the Board.

The 2024-2025 School Year Calendar was added back to the Agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve the entire Agenda. Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (April 17 and 18, 2024)

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (March 31, 2024)

Personnel Report

Tuitions Report

Supplemental Tuitions Report

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorization Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Claims List

Resolutions:

Haitian Heritage Month

Portugal Day

Cuban American Day

Payment of Unused Vacation Days

Payment for Unused Sick Days

Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Insurance Coverage Health Benefits – Aetna

Insurance Coverage Prescription – Benecard

Insurance Coverage Dental – Aetna

Transfer of Roberto Cerbone

Termination of Employment – R.E.G.

Return to Work – P.A.C.

Adoption of Revised Exhibit 9400 – Board Self Evaluation

Settlement Agreement C.M. o/b/o E.M.

Settlement Agreement R.V. o/b/o L.P.

Increment Withholding – Certified Performance

Increment Withholding – Certified Discipline

Increment Withholding – Non-Certified Discipline

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, (with an abstention on tab 5 Pg. 1-Donation from Union County Commissioners) Mr. Rivera., Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely (with an abstention on tab 5 Pg. 1-Donation from Union County Commissioners)

Negative: none

Ms. Ford stated that the Entire Agenda had passed.

* At the May 29th Meeting a motion was made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega to rescind the vote at the May 9th meeting to now reflect that Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Cheveres and Mr. Neron

abstained on the Personnel Report Tab 2 A pg. 27 Employment of Tenured and Non Tenured, Certified and Non Certified Personnel.

On a motion made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, and seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely – 8

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary