

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

May 14, 2022  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m., in the Multipurpose Room at Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 9:00 a.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. This is a special 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 May 11, 2022. 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.

We want to welcome everyone to this May 14, 2022 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. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate speaking when talking becomes personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

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 must personally sign-in prior 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.”

Present: Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Jerry Jacobs, Stanley Neron (via online platform; in-person at 10:50 a.m.), Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Rosa Moreno-Ortega – 6

Absent: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa, Charlene Bathelus  
Dorgely – 3

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and members of the public were present.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for Mr. Kennedy to read the following public participation statement:

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have personally 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 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; and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. The presiding officer may: interrupt, warn or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Since there were no public participants, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega welcomed everyone and stated that the retreat is to help our Board and to help us become better Board members to serve our community.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega introduced Consultant Dr. Adrienne Bailey who will be facilitating our governance retreat.

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. Goncalves Pestana, seconded by Mr. Neron, to go into private session at 9:05 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Goncalves Pestana, Moreno-Ortega – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Neron, to reconvene in public session at 1:55 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any additional items to add to the agenda.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Authorization Report is on the agenda and needs a motion and second.

#### Authorization Report – 2022-2023 School Calendar

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to table the 2022-2023 School Calendar for further review. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jacobs withdrew the motion to table the Authorization Report.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for a motion and second to accept the Authorization Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to accept the report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if any Board members had comments.

Mr. Neron thanked everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to come today. Mr. Neron thanked Dr. Bailey who took her time out of her busy schedule and saluted her for all her great work. Mr. Neron stated that Dr. Bailey has been doing this for many years and appreciates the partnership, critiques, and mentorship not only to our Board members but also our administration who have noted how she helped advance their professional careers. Mr. Neron stated that she helped us navigate through these very diverse challenges with all of the challenges that lie ahead. Mr. Neron thanked Dr. Bailey and sincerely appreciates all that she does for our district.

Mr. Jacobs echoed the sentiments of Mr. Neron and stated that he greatly appreciates all the assistance that Dr. Bailey has provided us. Mr. Jacobs stated that she has been instrumental in us accomplishing our goals and become better at our jobs as school board members.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Dr. Bailey for facilitating this retreat and stated that she is looking forward to working with her again next year.

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:  
Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-  
Ortega – 5  
Negative: None

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