

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 2, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following statement at 9:06 p.m. since the Public Hearing on the Budget was held prior to the agenda meeting.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular agenda 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 29, 2019. In addition, this notice is posted in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.”

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this May 2, 2019 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

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

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion may sign in up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

Present: Mrs. Barbosa (9:07 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenio, 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.

Board President Stephanie Pestana stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mrs. Pestana stated that we will go tab by tab and each board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino, Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Daphne Marchetti, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Amy Gil, Director of Special Projects Dorothy

Hannigan-McMullen, Director of Transportation Mike Rijo, and Purchasing Agent Mario Rodrigues. The board reviewed the agenda.

Minutes of the Meetings of April 8, 2019

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2019

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta to provide a summary.

Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta gave a synopsis of the Personnel Report.

Tuition Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes to speak about the field trips.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes gave a summary of the report.

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

Mrs. Pestana added the Minutes of the Meetings, Secretary/Treasurer's Report, Personnel Report, Tuition Report, Superintendent's Report – Considerations, Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, Superintendent's Report – Field Trips, and Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results to the agenda.

Authorizations Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Security Matthew Glackin speak about the COPS grant.

Director of Security Matthew Glackin stated that the COPS Office STOP School Violence Prevention Program is a competitive award program that provides funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes speak about the CALTA21 program.

Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes stated this is a partnership with CALTA21 and the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey to apply for the Impact 100 Grant. Mrs. Nunes stated that the program builds upon the professional development for our bilingual and ESL teachers by integrating visual thinking strategies in grade 8 and 9 bilingual and ESL classrooms.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Elementary and Secondary Daphne Marchetti speak about the STEM System Solution.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Daphne Marchetti stated that this is to apply for the National Education Foundation STEM Grant for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Marchetti stated that The STEM System Solution consists of four modules to better prepare students for academic success, college readiness and STEM careers.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson speak about the fundraising requests.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson gave a synopsis of the fundraising requests.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he would like to table the 2019-2020 Calendars.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to table the 2019-2020 Calendars.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that there is a filming project with Columbia University Teachers College and asked the Superintendent to explain this amazing opportunity and why they selected the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is an opportunity to participate with the Teacher College of Columbia University in conjunction with Temple University and Johns Hopkins University that will offer a professional development and coaching series in a pilot study for teachers in New York City through a grant received from the US DOE. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was selected to participate in the videotaping of high quality language and literacy interactions to be used in the University's training series for pre-k and kindergarten teachers in New York City.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is so happy to see this and that this video will be used to train teachers. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she wanted to the community to know that we were selected to participate.

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

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

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez speak about the contract with Kean University.

Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez stated that this is a contract with Kean University to serve as an externship site for students in their graduate Combined School and Clinical Psychology Program.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there are additional contracts to be added to the report.

Mr. Williams explained the reason the contracts need to be added.

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Pestana added the Authorizations Report (without the 2019-2020 Calendars), Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc., Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds, Award of Contracts Report, Supplemental Award of Contracts Report, Miscellaneous Communication, and Claims List to the agenda.

Resolution – Cuban American Day

Resolution – Haitian Heritage Month

Resolution – Portugal Day

Resolution – Neptune Township School District Jointure Transportation Services 2018-2019

Resolution – Temporary Short Term Loan

Resolution – Essex Regional Education Services Commission Home Instruction Services 2019-2020

Resolution – Approving Renewal of RP Baking LLC

Resolution – Appointing American Wear Inc.

Resolution – Essex Regional Education Services Commission Transportation Services 2019-2020

Resolution – Approving Second Renewal – Cream-O-Land Dairies – Dairy Products

Resolution – Appointing Cream-O-Land Dairies – Juice Products

Resolution – Payment for Medical-Health Insurance Waiver

Resolution – Capital Reserve Funds

Resolution – Appointing Safeway Contracting

Resolution – Approving Second Renewal – American Commercial Equipment

Resolution – Appointing McCloskey Mechanical and Approving Contract

Resolution – Appointing WB Mason and Approving Contract for Cafeteria Small Equipment

Resolution – Approving Second Renewal of Appco Paper Products

Resolution – Adoption of the 2019-2020 Budget

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mr. Jacobs asked for an explanation for the resolution appointing Safeway.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the justification will be sent to the Board members.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked about the Neptune Township School District Jointure Transportation Services.

Director of Transportation Michael Rijo explained.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if we had the temporary short-term loan in the past.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes and explained the delay of the June state aid from the State of New Jersey and the need for the short-term loan.

Mr. Jacobs asked about the home instruction services from Essex Regional Education Services Commission.

Director of Special Services Diana Pinto-Gomez explained.

Mrs. Pestana added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Mrs. Carvalho congratulated Director of Security Matthew Glackin on the successful security guard training during Easter week and thanked the Elizabeth Police Department and the officers who came to assist and teach the security guards. Mrs. Carvalho thanked Mr. Glackin for being the trailblazer in getting the Police Department to help. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she was able to attend the active shooter training and that it was very impressive to see how our security guards took the information and asked many questions of the officers. Mrs. Carvalho stated that they were engaged and our children are safer because of that.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta and those who put together the Elizabeth Scholarship Program and Dinner that is taking place tomorrow night. Mrs. Hernandez stated that this program has helped to really empower so many of our youth and reward them for their accomplishments. Mrs. Hernandez stated that there are 73 scholarships that will be awarded to our dedicated youth by so many of our community organizations and leaders. Mrs. Hernandez thanked Mr. Cuesta for this fantastic achievement.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she would like to continue speaking about the scholarship program. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that when you hear from the community organizations that collect money for the scholarships and provide the need to the students it is amazing. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that this is the 13th year and she is happy for our students and is excited for tomorrow night. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega congratulated the parents and stated that it is the whole community working together. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the directors and stated that when our students perform well and today we see very good teamwork for the benefit of our community. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that every person who is here, those in the public and the directors, are here for our students and for the best of them. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega congratulated all those who created the scholarships.

Mrs. Barbosa thanked the Superintendent and the administration who worked on the budget because it is one of the most difficult things and they make it work every year. Mrs. Barbosa stated that it is the end of April and recognized Director of Special Education Diana Pinto-Gomez and her staff, teachers, supervisors in special education who did great with all of the parades and bubbles and smiles. Mrs. Barbosa stated that on Saturday there is a Special Needs Fair and invited everyone to come and gather information and bring families. Mrs. Barbosa stated that May 8th is Autism Day at Great Adventure.

Mr. Jacobs congratulated Board member Stanley Neron in his promotion to City of Elizabeth Director of Recreation and stated that he is very happy to see Mr. Neron in his new role. Mr. Jacobs stated that he knows Mr. Neron will bring a lot of energy and commitment and dedication to our City and our youth. Mr. Jacobs stated that he knows that we have great things to come.

Mr. Neron thanked Mr. Jacobs and everyone for their support throughout the years and the work that they have been doing in our community, not only through the Office of Senior Services but also through the Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Neron stated that they look forward to continuing a lot of great work together. Mr. Neron commended the Superintendent and the entire team for putting together an awesome budget and making it fluid so

we can be sure to continue to make strides in our district to make sure that we become a national model. Mr. Neron stated that we talk about that all the time and we have to name it, claim it, frame it, and make it real. Mr. Neron stated that we are going to be that national model.

Mrs. Pestana thanked the directors for spending the evening and stated that they appreciate their patience.

Board President Stephanie Pestana requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, 2019-2020 contracts for tenured and non-tenured personnel, update on employee contract negotiations and employee benefit plans; legal matters, specifically, residency investigations, arbitration agreement to resolve certain claims, authorization to participate in track and field events, authorization for JROTC field competition, and authorization to enter into contracts. The board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to go into private session at 9:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega excused herself from the meeting at 11:43 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to reconvene in public session at 11:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega returned to the meeting at 11:46 p.m.

Mrs. Pestana added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Residency Investigative Results

Resolution – Return to Work – S.Q.

Resolution – Increment Withholding for 2019-2020 (Performance)

Resolution – Increment Withholding for 2019-2020 (Discipline)

Resolution – Terminations – License Expired – Registered Nurses

Authorization to Compete in Track and Field Events

Superintendent's Report – Considerations – JROTC Field Competition

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips – School No. 25 – America Young Voices

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Neron, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 11:47 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 9

Negative: None

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