

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 2, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A public hearing on the 2019-2020 Board of Education Proposed Budget 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 6:22 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 Thursday, April 25, 2019. 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 are here this evening to hear the public express their views regarding the proposed 2019-2020 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.”

Present: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (arr. 6:40 p.m.), 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 Cedeno, 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

Board President Stephanie Pestana introduced Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer to present the 2019-2020 School Year Budget of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the presentation of the proposed 2019-2020 School Year Budget of the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this budget has allowed us to maintain the improvement efforts we have put in place in recent budgets and sustain the strong academic progress of our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this budget enables us to continue our work of eliminating the achievement gap and implementing New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that providing an equal education opportunity for all of our students requires funding at public schools sufficient to provide a rigorous curriculum in a broad range of subject areas delivered by well-trained teachers and supported by effective school and district leaders. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the funding for our schools serves our high number of low-income students, English language learners, and

students with a variety of needs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have worked diligently to craft a budget that prioritizes our focus and closely aligns our resources with our ambitious educational aspirations.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the board of education for the countless hours they invest in our school district, the number of committees that they participate in, the numerous conversations that we have one-on-one, and their incredible dedicated passion to the children of our district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a great deal of work went into preparing this budget and thanked the administrators for their time, dedication, and all of the challenging conversations that we had to help us to deliver an excellent education for our children.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are currently serving 28,717 students and have 3 early childhood centers, 26 PreK-8 schools including 20 neighborhood schools, 4 magnet schools, and 2 gifted and talented schools, and 7 high schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we serve 17.8% English language learners, 11.3% students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs), and 77.9% of our students qualified for free and reduced lunch. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the ethnicity is 72% Hispanic, 18% Black, 8% White, 2% Asian, and 0% Pacific Islands.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer acknowledged the efforts of our local elected leaders in advocating for the funding for our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are soon-to-be the third largest school district in the state. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through this budget we were incredibly fortunate to have received an additional \$15.1 million in order to properly support our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are thankful to Governor Murphy for his support and also incredibly thankful for the recognition of the Education Law Center that advocates for equal educational opportunity to close the gap and ensure that there is proper funding of our schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this budget follows the principles of our three Es, equity, high expectations, and excellence for all of our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our work is aligned to our district's strategy map. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our vision is to be one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation and 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 every child achieving excellence 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 the Elizabeth Public Schools has been designated as high performing by the NJ Department of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked how do we define college and career readiness and 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 for the first promise goal showing the post-graduation plans for each high school including college, technical school, military, workforce, and unknown. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide for the second promise goal showing the percentage of EPS Class of 2018 graduates at each high school who enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement course before graduating. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the percentage of EPS Class of 2018 graduates at each high school who maintained at least a 3.0 GPA or higher throughout high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the four-year high school graduation rate and that there has been a 21.1% increase

in the graduation rate from 2011 to 2018. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide from the NJ School Performance Report showing the student groups and stated that they have met the targets in English language arts and met the standards in mathematics. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide from the NJ School Performance Report showing the number of Elizabeth Public School students enrolled in approved career and technical education programs for architecture and construction; arts, AV technology and communications; education and training; health science; hospitality and tourism; human services; information technology; manufacturing; marketing; science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and transportation, distribution and logistics.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the process for development of the 2019-2020 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 15th 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 2018-2019 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 21,744 students in 2009-2010 to 28,717 students in 2018-2019. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the 2018-2019 teacher to student ratio for grade levels. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2019-2020 budget includes 17 new K-12 teachers, 12 new classroom assistants, 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 17 new staffing positions and 12 new classroom assistants for a total of \$1.5 million funded in the 2019-2020 budget.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the first budget development priority is maintaining our school system and the new budget includes a new language arts literacy program for grades K-3 including general education, bilingual education, and special education; language arts literacy refurbishment for grades 4-12 including general education, bilingual/ESL education, and special education for novels, classroom libraries, and manipulatives; mathematics refurbishment for grades K-12 including general education, bilingual education, and special education; mathematics Pearson System of Courses (PSoC) for grades 6-10; social studies and science refurbishment for grades K-12 including general education, bilingual education, and special education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2019-2020 budget increased \$2 million for the new language arts literacy program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Children's Literacy Initiative will be in 14 schools including School Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 28. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes Pearson digital-first math program for 21st Century Learning at Battin School No. 4 and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Grant in partnership with New York University (NYU) with an emphasis on supporting STEM programs focused on science and integrated language program for bilingual students in grade 5 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 the budget includes social studies refurbishment for grades K-12 including general education, bilingual education, and special education, world languages refurbishment for grades 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes gifted and talented refurbishment at Terence C. Reilly School No. 7, William F. Halloran School No. 22, and Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes refurbishment for the International Baccalaureate programs for grades K-8. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes refurbishment for music and art programs and physical education and health programs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide from the NJ School Performance Report showing the career and technical education participation of students who completed one course in an approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and that our district is at 21.8% as compared to 7.3% for the state. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 22.6% of district students completed two or more courses in CTE as compared to 10.2% for the state. 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. grant funds per year totaling a maximum award of \$500,000. per grantee for the entire five-year grant period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a new program of study in partnership with the Elizabeth Fire Department and Union County EMT Trainer Program is the Emergency Medical Technician program that prepares students for EMT Certification Exam and CPR Certification and offers dual credit with Union County College and Rutgers University, offers 14 clinical hours in the emergency room at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, and 30 hours of ambulance experience with the Elizabeth Fire Department. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes industry certifications for certification exams for engineering and global logistics exams; structured learning experiences (SLE) for advisors and summer internships including United Way of Greater Union County, ShipCo, automotive technology, print services, health sciences, cosmetology/barbering, commercial foods, and fashion/marketing. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing the National Academy Foundation Models and we are leveraging technology with iLeap personalized learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget includes visual and performing arts including the Teen Arts Program, summer arts institute, music theater orchestra, high school performing arts program after school, Disney Musicals in Schools program, and American Young Voices. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a review of instruction includes revisions of curricula, revisions of benchmarks, and iObservation using the Danielson and Marzano evaluation systems. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing with the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers in Training Corps (JROTC) and expanding the contract with the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as part of our budget the safe and caring initiatives include small learning communities and block scheduling; alternative education programs for at-risk learners; maintenance of equipment; and contract services for nursing and speech services, occupational therapy and physical therapy; chief medical inspector; behavioral services; and student drug screenings. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the initiatives include nursing supplies and equipment, substance abuse coordinator services, investigators, school security guards, school guidance counselor services, social worker services, school nursing services, child study team services, American Red Cross CPR training, before school breakfast programs, and high school Saturday programs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that EPS students attend the Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School tuition free. 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 and displaced children. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have 12 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. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that two additional schools will be selected by the NJDOE to participate in the PBSIS for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this past year four schools participated in the School Climate Transformation Project (SCTP). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2019-2020 school year home and school relationships include community services such as welcome centers for centralized registration for elementary and high school, the high school registration program for afterschool, Saturday, and summer programs,

community attendance liaisons, student handbooks, parent handbooks, newsletters, PowerSchool student information system, PowerSchool Unified Classroom learning management system, IEP Direct, RTI Direct, 504 Direct, communication materials and brochures designed to promote school and district programs, high school information systems, district website, operation of video channel, community education programs, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) seminars for students and parents, college symposium, school events including National Honor Society, back to school nights, math/science/literacy nights, award ceremonies, and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) webpage. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the academic safety nets include summer academics/programs, promotion/retention program for grades K-8, summer literacy interventions program, summer remediation and advanced credit for grades 9-12, Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC), home instruction services, Reading is Essential to Adolescent Development (READ) for grades K-3, Algebraic Thinking for grades 6-8, Developing Mathematical Understanding for grades 4-5, recreation program for special education, extended school year (ESY) for students with disabilities for PreK to age 21, summer arts enrichment for grades K-11, after school enrichment programs for grades K-8, Saturday recreation program for students with disabilities, after school clubs for high school students, Saturday attendance recovery program for high school students, and the Saturday graduation rate improvement program (GRIP) for high school students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the academic interventions include Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for grades 6-12, Agile Minds mathematics for grades 6-8, Response to Intervention (RTI), Hispanics Inspiring Students Performance and Achievement (HISPA) role model program for grades 6-8, SONDAY multisensory interventions, Orton Gillingham, and Leveled Literacy Interventions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the programs for special education students include Touchmath for special education grades K-8, 504 Plan related services, extended school year (ESY) for students with disabilities PreK to age 21, and Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the contract services for special education students include nursing, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral services, applied behavior analysis (ABA) services, Rethink, and the Union County Educational Services Commission (UCESC) Transition Partnership. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the programs for English language learners include self-contained bilingual and ESL services, native language materials, transition services, sheltered instruction professional development, bilingual magnet program for grades 4-8, and point of entry for grades 9-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there are contracted providers for hospital and after school home instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the athletic and co-curricular activities include a complete array of clubs and activities, intramural sports for grades 6-8, New Jersey State Police Top Physical Challenge, YMCA Health Bee, Special Olympics, Saturday and Summer Recreation Program for students with disabilities, and NFL Play 60. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the athletic summer camps include soccer for boys and girls, football, swimming for boys and girls, basketball for boys and girls, track and field for boys and girls, golf for boys and girls, cheerleading for boys and girls, wrestling for boys and girls, baseball for boys, volleyball for boys and girls, softball for girls, tennis for boys and girls, and summer band camp for grades 9-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Bowles family donated \$25,000 to support the Elizabeth Public Schools Special Olympics Play Unified Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the student assessments include the high school graduation appeals portfolios, state testing program for NJ Student Learning Assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) for ELLS, Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), *Evaluacion del desarrollo* (EDL), PreK IDEA Proficiency Test (Pre-IPT), new entrant testing for bilingual students, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for students with disabilities, Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP) for students with disabilities, college board assessments including Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and Advanced Placement (AP). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there are translation services for student assessments. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the technology includes information technology technicians, internal and external communications including e-mail system, phone system, and the automated phone messaging system using Blackboard Connect, district, school and teacher webpages, maintenance of internal bandwidth capacity, Microsoft Office 365, e-mail addresses

for students in grades 6-12, Follett Library Management System, Moving with Math online program, MyAccess writing program, maintenance of equipment for TV studio, maintenance of one-to-one devices for grades 2-12 SchoolNet, Frontline Applitrack human resources system, SHI Student-Staff ID System, TPASS Visitor Security System, Versatrans System transportation software system, financial system, payroll system, account payables system, budgeting system, maintenance of telephone messaging, two way radio network, telephone, and video conferencing systems.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the budget goals for raising standards and expanding opportunities include resources to close the achievement gap, resources to enhance technology standards for students and teachers, college and career readiness, visual and performing arts enrichment, and review of instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide from the New Jersey School Performance Report showing the 2017-2018 Elizabeth Public Schools advanced placement courses and exams, international baccalaureate courses and exams, and dual enrollment courses where high school students can enroll in college courses for credit. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the 2017-2018 percentage of students enrolled in one or more AP or IB course and stated that in Elizabeth the percentage is 53.2% as compared to 34.9% for the state; the number of students taking one or more AP or IB exam is 49.9% for the district compared to 28.3% for the state, and the students with one or more exam with a score of at least 3 on AP exams or 4 on IB exams is 13.7% for the district compared to 20.5% for the state. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the 2019-2020 budget the resources to close the achievement gap for each student include coordinator of equity and communication education programs, guidance counselors to track and monitor out-of-district students, leveled curricular materials, SchoolNet data system, data analyst to identify strengths and weaknesses of minority populations, culturally relevant supplemental curricular materials, consultants to examine curriculum of inclusion, 15 hour sheltered instruction module for all instructors, summer transition program before grade 9, Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) partnership, Orton-Gillingham multi-sensory reading instruction for grades K and 1, partnership with Harvard University – Reimagining Integration: Diverse and Equitable Schools (RIDES), and growth mindset. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the professional learning opportunities include the New Jersey Superintendents' Network conducting equity instructional rounds, Hispanic Association for Colleges and Universities (HACU), Kean University Diversity Council Membership, College Board Council, and the Power of Mindsets promoting positive school climate and motivation and resilience in students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our dual enrollment partners include Kean University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New Jersey City University, Rutgers University, Union County College, and Middlesex County Community College. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the dual enrollment courses include English IV, English Literature and Composition, US History II, Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, Bilingual Pre-Calculus, Introduction to Education, NJIT Engineering, NAF Business in a Global Economy, Allied Health, Dynamics in Health Care and Society, Emergency and Clinical Care, Medical Terminology, and Emergency Medical Technician. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the resources to enhance technology standards for students and teachers include MyACCESS (Vantage Learning), Destination Imagination, First Lego League, Girls Who Code, Engineering is Elementary, NASA Explorer School, Technology Student Association, Khan Academy, Microsoft Translator, Microsoft Office 365, computer literacy curricula writing, Digital Literacy, and Introduction to Coding. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the visual and performing arts enrichment includes the Teen Arts Program, Summer Arts Institute, music theatre orchestra, high school performing arts program after school, Disney Musicals in Schools, HBO partnership, Visual Arts Center of NJ, and American Young Voices. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that review of instruction includes 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 Elizabeth Public Schools is equipped with Naviance which is a

comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps districts and schools align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals, improving student outcomes, and connecting learning to life. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all seven high schools are Middle States Accredited.

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 2019-2020 budget the capital projects and maintenance projects include ceiling tile replacements in 4 classrooms, upgrade the clock systems at 3 schools, convert spaces to classrooms at 4 schools, door replacements in 5 schools, exterior wall repairs, fire alarm upgrades at 6 schools, floor replacements at 22 schools, grease trap replacements at 8 schools, repair/refinish the gym floor, HVAC improvements at 8 schools, intercom improvements at 4 schools, replace cove lights in auditorium, locker replacements at 2 schools, room number replacements at 3 schools, replace/repair gym curtain dividers at 2 schools, replace auditorium curtains at 5 schools, security improvements at 2 schools, shade replacement at 5 schools, renovation of 6 TCUs, improvement of toilets at 3 schools, refinish pool surface, and install sinks in art and science room. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the capital reserve and maintenance projects include replacing generator, painting classrooms/hallways in six schools, painting an entire school, upgrading the gym HVAC, replacing/restoring roof at 3 schools, replacing gym floor at 3 schools, installing air conditioning in entire school at 2 schools, repairing exterior wall at 2 schools, replacing curtains in gym, 3 new boilers at 2 schools, renovating girls/boys bathrooms at 3 schools, improving the lighting in the gym, installing dumb waiter, new steam return line in tunnel, replacing gym ceiling tiles, replacing classroom HVAC units in 8 classroom, replacing artificial turf, LED lighting for cafetorium, replacing the cold water main, replacing greenhouse glass roof, repairing walls in 3 classrooms in 1 school, painting or replacing school lockers, expanding culinary and baking classrooms, replacing doors on 2nd and 3rd floors with metal doors, new hot and cold water lines in tunnel, and LED lights for football field.

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

Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra stated that tonight he is presenting the financials for the 2019-2020 School Year Budget. Mr. Malhotra stated that the vast majority of the revenue will come from New Jersey State Aid, \$458,509,801., which is 83.0% 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 10.8% of our budget, federal aid is \$17,706,685., which is 3.2%, balance appropriation is \$14,470,914., which is 2.6%, and miscellaneous revenue is \$1,757,025., which is .3% for a total budget of \$552,257,549. Mr. Malhotra stated that there is \$0 debt service.

Mr. Malhotra stated that our budget expenditures include \$433,411,833. for instruction which is 78.5%, of our total budget, \$18,039,042. for administration which is 3.3%, \$50,682,155. for operation and maintenance of plant which is 9.2%, \$50,124,519. for other which includes community services, employee benefits, transportation, and capital outlay which is 9.1% of our budget.

Mr. Malhotra stated that the 2019-2020 comparative per pupil cost is \$16,615. per student and includes \$10,159. for classroom instruction, \$71. for equipment costs, community services and special schools, \$2,361. for cleaning, repair, and maintenance of our schools, plant and property, \$142. for athletics and extracurricular activities, \$2,472. for support services including health, guidance, child study teams, library, and professional development, and \$1,410. 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 \$2,143. and here in Elizabeth the cost for our administration is \$1,410. per student.

Mr. Malhotra stated that the 2019-2020 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 a record of 1,350 graduates at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony; William F. Halloran School No. 22 was one of two schools in the U.S. to be selected as an HP Showcase School; successes in career and technical education were shared at a board meeting; Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy was selected as No. 10 in New Jersey and No. 313 in the U.S. for the best high schools by the U.S. News and World Report and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was selected as No. 28 in New Jersey and #562 in the U.S. for the best high schools by the U.S. News and World Report; Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy was selected as among the top schools in New Jersey by NJ Monthly; Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50 were named 2019 NJ School of Character and among six district schools recognized by NJASECD. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools received a \$95,000. Advanced Computer Science Grant that will help develop and implement a new computer science course at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools received MIND Research Institute ST Math School Grants Program Grant courtesy of Phillips 66. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the US DOE Deputy Chief Operating Officer visited Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy to discuss financial aid and encourage students to apply for FAFSA. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that John E. Dwyer Technology Academy was in the spotlight as an AVID Showcase School, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 earned first place in the New Jersey Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Elizabeth High School students attended the Governor Murphy press conference on healthcare at the Elizabeth Public Library, Elizabeth High School students led a campaign to support teens inclusion in the \$15. minimum wage bill and attended Governor Murphy's bill signing at The Snyder Academy, 25 schools received the 2018 Union County *Kids Dig In!* Garden Grants, Elizabeth Public School Students received the meritorious student award from the *Consulado General de la Republica Dominicana*, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Safe Lock Team visited the State House, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy students find success through the partnership with U.C.E.S.C. and Project Search, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy students were featured in the NJIT Virtual Reality Education article, Elizabeth High School received a grant and tools from Mid-Atlantic Robotics, Elizabeth High School students participated in their first robotics competition and received the Rookie All-Star Award, Elizabeth Public Schools hosted assemblies honoring Women's History Month, Elizabeth High School Speech and Debate Team won awards in competitions, The Jefferson Liberty Players presented The Laramie Project and a pledge to Stand Up for the Other, the Elizabeth Public Schools participated in HISPA/Merck Imagine Day, the Elizabeth Public Schools participated in Career Awareness Day at Kean University, Leaders of Technique (LOT) attended the money management/wealth empowerment seminar, students participated in the Stuff-a-Bus disaster relief for the Carolinas hurricane victims, 2018 Estuary Day, 2018 Environmental Day, 2018 EPS College Fair, Week of Respect was celebrated, and EPS students attended Academy Day for the United States Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Marine Corps, and Naval Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Athletics Fall 2018 highlights included the Elizabeth Boys Soccer Team as the North 2, Group 4 State Champions; No. 15 in The Star Ledger Final Top 20 Rankings; No. 9 in NJ by the Soccer Coaches Association of NJ Final Top 20 Rankings; Henry Chavez was selected as 3rd Team Star Ledger All-State Boys Soccer, 2nd Team Star Ledger All-Group 4 Boys Soccer, and 1st Team Star Ledger All-Conference Boys Soccer; Josser Amaya was selected as 3rd Team Star Ledger All-Group 4 Boys Soccer and 1st Team Star Ledger All-Conference Boys Soccer; and Youkendly Pacius was selected as 2nd Team Star Ledger All-Conference Boys Soccer. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Star Ledger All-Group 5 Football selected Javon Wactor for 2nd Team Offense and Jesiah West for 3rd Team Offense; and the Star Ledger All-Conference Girls Soccer athlete Victoria Bastos was selected as 1st Team. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Athletics Winter 2018-2019 highlights include Elizabeth Boys Basketball being the North 2, Group 4 State Finalists; No. 11 in New Jersey, No. 2 in Group

4, and No. 2 in Union County in The Star Ledger Final Top 20 Rankings; and Jordan Price selected as 1st Team and Brendan Kelly as 3rd Team from The Star Ledger All-Group 4 Boys Basketball. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Boys Winter Track Team highlights include the 4 x 400m Relay Team was selected as 2nd Team by The Star Ledger All-State Winter Track; The Star Ledger All-Group 4 selected Gabriel Nash for 1st Team - 55m Dash, 4 x 400m Relay Team as 2nd Team, and Mujeeb Ali for 3rd Team - Shot Put; NJSIAA Meet of Champions include 4 x 400m Relay Team won 2nd Place and Mujeeb Ali 4th Place - Shot Put; NJSIAA Group 4 Champions include the 4x 400 Relay Team – 1st Place, Gabriel Nash - 2nd Place – 55m Dash, Mujeeb Ali - 5th Place – Shot Put, and Tajhir Tate - 10th Place – Shot Put; NJSIAA North 2, Group 4 Champions include 4 x 400m Relay Team won 1st Place, Gabriel Nash – 2nd Place – 55m Dash, Donsly Barthelus – 2nd Place - High Jump, and Mujeeb Ali – 2nd Place – Shot Put; Union County Indoor Relay Track Champions include 4 x 400m Relay Team – 1st Place, Donsly Barthelus – 1st Place – High Jump, Mujeeb Ali – 2nd Place – Shot Put, and Gabriel Nash – 3rd Place – 55m Dash. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Girls Winter Track highlights for the NJSIAA Group 4 Championship include ChaaNahYah Brathwaite – 7th Place – 55m Dash, and YahShaRah Brathwaite – 10th Place – 400m; NJSIAA North 2, Group 4 Championship include 4 x 400m Relay Team – 3rd Place, ChaaNahYah Brathwaite – 1st Place – 55m Dash and 4th Place – 400m, YahShaRah Brathwaite – 3rd Place – 400m; and Union County Indoor Relay Track Champions include 4 x 400m Relay Team – 3rd Place, and Zuri Ekaton – 3rd Place – Shot Put. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Varsity Wrestling Team highlights for the NJSIAA District 13 Champions include Cristian Luzua – 1st Place – 106 lbs., Nour Sayed – 2nd Place – 195 lbs., Jesse Fornes – 3rd Place - 170 lbs., Gerome Abad – 3rd Place – 220 lbs., and Moses Olowoopejo – 3rd Place – 285 lbs.; and Union County Champions include Cristian Luzua – 3rd Place – 106 lbs., Moses Olowoopejo – 3rd Place – 285 lbs., and Nour Sayed – 4th Place – 195 lbs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Boys Swimming Team highlights include Alfredo Rojas broke three individual swimming records in 2018-2019 bringing his record total to 7 individual and 2 relay records; he broke the 100 yd. Freestyle record in a time of 50.54 on December 6, 2018 against Governor Livingston High School and the next week he broke the 100 yd. Backstroke on December 13, 2018 in the time of 59.22; at the Union County Swimming Tournament on January 27, 2019 Alfredo Rojas placed 7th in the County in the 50 yd. Freestyle in a time of 23.24 breaking an Elizabeth record that stood for 37 years; and Alfredo Rojas is the current owner of all but one individual swimming record on the all-time record board. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that YaShaRah Brathwaite, senior at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy was selected as the 2018 Wendy's High School Heisman School Winner. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that John E. Dwyer Technology students excelled at the Special Olympics Area 5 Bowling Competition, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Rifle Team won the Pennsylvania Regional Rifle Competition, EHS Marching Band earned the highest score among 15 bands in the US Bands Event and the Best Color Guard in the Group 6 Open, the Elizabeth Jazz Ensemble and Band excelled at the state preliminaries, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Concerts for Young People Series returned to the Elizabeth Public Schools, and the Elizabeth Public Schools Artists were on display at the Union County Teen Arts Showcase. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools 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. 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, our 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. Copies of the tentative 2019-2020 budget are on file at the Board of Education Mitchell Building, 500 North Broad Street, and a copy of the proposed budget is posted online at the district’s website, www.epsnj.org.” Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this concludes the budget presentation.

Mrs. Pestana thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer.

Board President Pestana presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones 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 sixty 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 participants 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. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Pestana called upon the first public participant, Danielle Fienberg, to address the board.

Danielle Fienberg, 631 North Broad Street, stated that there is a loss of \$1.5 million in the IDEA budget and that 80% of the district qualifies for free or reduced lunch but several administrators got bonuses this year and asked how is there equity.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she has been superintendent since December 2013 and has never received merit pay.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, stated that in the budget there is a \$31,000. bonus for the superintendent. Mrs. Moreira stated that the afterschool program is being cut from 3 days to 2 and that there used to be 5 days for the afterschool program. Mrs. Moreira asked why there is a large discrepancy between Dwyer and Halsey and Elizabeth High School and asked how the money is divided.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the budget should reflect 3 days for the after school program and that there are two models, one is a three day and the other is for 2 days with longer hours. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the enrollment is the driver in the budget for the high school.

Mr. Williams stated that New Jersey as a whole provides for merit pay and has provisions in the budget for this. Mr. Williams stated that the funds have never been spent for Mrs. Hugelmeyer and it is just a line item in the budget.

Mrs. Pestana thanked Mrs. Moreira for her comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the board, Mrs. Pestana closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Pestana requested a motion to go into Private Session to discuss personnel matters related to the budget. Mrs. Pestana stated that the Board may take action on the budget following the Private Session.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 7:50 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. Barbosa excused herself from the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 9:04 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Negative: None

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