

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 4, 2017
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stanley Neron presented the following statement at 6:45 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled 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 1, 2017. 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, New Jersey.

“We want to welcome everyone present and to our television viewers to this May 4, 2017 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 public speaking 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: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 6

Absent: Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Rodriguez – 3

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, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Ethics

Mr. Neron welcomed everyone to the agenda planning meeting.

Board President Neron 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.”

Mr. Neron called upon the first public participant, Jean Dumont, to address the Board.

Jean Dumont, teacher, stated that he received a RICE notice and would like to discuss this in private.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about the lack of an elopement policy for students. Mrs. Lorenz stated that a Board member visited special education classes and that photographs and videos were taken of students, including her own child, without expressed written consent of the parents and posted on the website in violation of Board policy. Mrs. Lorenz stated that if they wanted to make a video about autism awareness it should highlight the program, the classes available to the students, and the teachers who work so hard.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will be reviewing with the building principal to determine how this occurred.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Salaam Ismael, to address the Board.

Salaam Ismael, 513 Richmond Street, spoke about a seventeen-year-old who was shot in one of the housing complexes in the City and asked for an act of urgency for the Elizabeth Public Schools to host a citywide youth summit on gun violence awareness and prevention before school ends.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, stated that in an effort to help end childhood hunger the Community Eligibility Provision in the Healthy Hungry Free Kids Act of 2010 allows the nation's highest poverty stricken schools to serve all students free meals without the burden of collecting household applications. Mrs. Moreira stated that a bill passed that goes into effect in September that would limit expulsion and suspension for students in grades PreK-2 and requires early detection and prevention programs for behavioral issues for students in grades PreK-2. Mrs. Moreira spoke about a Board member who visited Special Education classes and had photos and videos taken of the students and identified them as special needs.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that she ran a couple of months ago because she felt she could help and then she made it and is here. Mrs. Barbosa stated that before April started she said her month is coming and she has to do something for these children. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she is going to spend time with them and visit every single class, if she has to go from day to night, she will stop and thank each and every teacher. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she will smile, she will high five, and do whatever it takes to make that child know that she is there and that is what she did. Mrs. Barbosa stated that on Tuesdays she gets her twins ready and then calls the Superintendent's Office to find out what schools she is going to. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she had the fortunate event that our staff in the media department asked if they could accompany her because they think she is going to be doing positive things. Mrs. Barbosa stated that if we by any means offended anybody and if we did not check something clearly we will take care of that. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she greets the teachers but then she sits right next to each student and gives each a high five. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she looks in their eyes and they look at her and for that one second she made a difference. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the one second eye contact made a difference. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the staff that comes with her does what they have to do and checks whatever they have to and they capture that moment of positivity. Mrs. Barbosa stated that if it is decided that we can't show that she wants everyone to know that she is going every Tuesday because that is her prerogative. Mrs. Barbosa stated that there is no disgrace and there is only a learning period here. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she will visit every single class and tap the teacher on the back and help them for one minute so they can relax for one minute. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she will see that child smile and give her one second of eye contact and she did her job and she goes home happy. Mrs. Barbosa stated that if things can't be done around her and it's decided we can't, then we won't. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she is not trying to be famous and is not trying to make anybody famous but she is just trying to bring a little positivity and a little happiness. Mrs. Barbosa stated that a teacher called her and thanked her for coming to her classroom because no one in ten years but therapists have visited her class. Mrs. Barbosa stated that a parent called her and said no one ever has taken a picture with her child because her child doesn't look like the other children. Mrs. Barbosa stated that she does what she does and that she did what she needed to do.

Mr. Neron called upon the next public participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Patricia Gallante, 750 Grier Avenue, spoke about the budget and stated that all the freshman academies have their own building except for the Jefferson freshman academy at the EHS-Frank J. Cicarell Academy building. Ms. Gallante asked when the drop in graduation credits from 160 to 140 would be effective for the current high school students and asked about the block scheduling for major subjects.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mr. Neron closed this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Bathelus stated that from the beginning when Board member Diane Barbosa came up with the idea she thinks it came from a good place. Ms. Bathelus stated that the fact that Mrs. Lorenz and her family did not approve of her son the least we can do is apologize. Ms. Bathelus stated that on behalf of the Board of Education we are very sorry that your son was featured in the public eye when he wasn't approved to do that. Ms. Bathelus stated that the Superintendent said she is going to be speaking to the principal but on behalf of the Board we need to apologize to Mrs. Lorenz for that and we hope that doesn't happen again. Ms. Bathelus stated that when parents come in and their children are being featured without their permission she is sorry and on behalf of the Board we apologize.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she wanted to address some of the questions with regard to the 9th grade academies. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 9th grade students from Thomas Jefferson will be on the fourth floor of the Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy and they

have the entire fourth floor dedicated space for them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Central Office is located on the third floor of the Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy and the students from Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy will be on the first and second floors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our intent is to provide the ninth grade students the appropriate support and that space is currently not being utilized. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we thought that it would be very convenient to ensure that the students had access to Jefferson’s main high school building for all of the additional extracurricular activities that they have.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there was a question with regard to the ratio of guidance counselors and explained that the reference in the budget presentation of 1 counselor for every 262 students pertains to high schools only and does not address the PreK-8 schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that by adding 4 guidance counselors through this budget it will reduce the ratio from 1 counselor for over 300 students to 1 counselor for 262 students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in terms of schedules and block scheduling it varies and some high schools use block scheduling. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the intent to reduce the high school credits to 140 will go into effect September 1, 2017. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year the graduation requirement will be 140 credits for all students in grades 9-12.

Mr. Neron thanked everyone for bringing their concerns to the Board of Education. Mr. Neron stated that with regard to the issue of Visiting Tuesdays he concurs with Board member Charlene Bathelus that this was a concept that was generated to highlight Autism Awareness and it is not something that is meant to exploit children or the issue. Mr. Neron stated that in the video he gives an introduction as to how important it is to create awareness not only locally but throughout the district and throughout the country. Mr. Neron stated that one of the things we do with our IT Department is we make sure that there are releases on our students and if that did take place, and according to Mrs. Lorenz it did, we apologize on behalf of the Board of Education. Mr. Neron stated that if there are children in the video who do not have releases we will take that video down immediately. Mr. Neron stated that we apologize for that and it is not the intent to exploit children by any means. Mr. Neron stated that Mrs. Barbosa is very passionate about the issue and has done something remarkable that other Board members have not done and that is to make sure that she dedicates her time to making sure she goes to all the classes that are dealing with autism and special needs. Mr. Neron stated that it is not something that is exploited and is not something that we go around saying that here are the children we visited, here are the issues, here are the categories and we don’t go into detail of anything of that nature. Mr. Neron stated that we want to make sure we put emphasis on it and recognize the fact that a lot of work needs to be done and there needs to be serious investment in it. Mr. Neron stated that we need to enhance what we are doing and celebrate what we are doing and shed light on it. Mr. Neron stated that the instructors working in the classroom are facing a lot of challenges and so are the parents and we empathize with that and want to recognize that. Mr. Neron stated that we want to recognize the students and we want to celebrate the instructors who are working very hard in those classes day in and day out along with the parents. Mr. Neron commended the parents for the work that they do and for working with us. Mr. Neron stated that is the intent behind Visiting Tuesdays and if we have to rectify it and take down the video then we will without an issue.

Mr. Neron stated that Mr. Ismial has presented an issue to us that we take very seriously. Mr. Neron stated that there are a number of things that they have discussed as a Board in light of all the issues that have taken place, a lot of things happened locally and a lot of issues are happening nationally. Mr. Neron stated that we feel there is a serious need to make sure that we establish a number of programs throughout our district starting from a very early age all the way to the high school age. Mr. Neron stated that we need to address gun violence, violence, conflict resolution, bullying, and so on. Mr. Neron stated that is going to be in the construct of the committee that we have established.

Mr. Neron stated that the Superintendent responded to the question of when the reduction of high school credits would start. Mr. Neron stated that it is something that they saw as a serious need in establishing and the reduction of the high school credits will start this September. Mr.

Neron stated that it is something that is very important that it begins now to help with our transfer students and to help with our students in general. Mr. Neron stated that we recognize through looking at the numbers and statistics it is very stressful to accomplish 160 credits. Mr. Neron stated that we have made those adjustments and changes and it will help us in general. Mr. Neron stated that it starts the day later and ends the day earlier so it will be an added incentive for not only our staff but our students.

Mr. Neron stated that this an agenda setting meeting. Mr. Neron stated that we will go tab by tab and each Board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt, Chief Information Officer-Technology Alberto Marsal, Director of Athletics Judy Finch Johnson, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Director of Transportation Michael Rijo, Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Early Childhood Education Tracy Crosby, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Daphne Marchetti, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil, and Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen. The Board reviewed the agenda for the May 11, 2017 regular meeting.

Minutes of the Meetings of April 6 and 13, 2017
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2017

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions. Mr. Neron added the Minutes of the Meetings of April 6 and 13, 2017 and the Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2017 to the agenda.

Personnel Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Tuition Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if ECLC is new and do we pay for the aide.

Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen responded that we have used them before and the aide is included.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if Trinitas is for OT.

Mrs. McMullen stated that Trinitas is for home/bedside instruction.

Mrs. Carvalho asked how many days before the instruction begins.

Mrs. McMullen responded that instruction begins within five days.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if a child can be on home instruction for a long time.

Mrs. McMullen responded that the medical examiner makes the determination based on the individual student.

Mr. Neron added the Personnel Report, Tuition Report, and Supplemental Tuition Report to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the Superintendent's Reports.

Mrs. Carvalho congratulated the students in the Destination Imagination Global Finals.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the low cost of a request.

Mr. Kennedy responded that there is a custodian already working in the building at that time.

Miss Goncalves asked about the low cost for the use of the parking lot.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the request is only for the use of the parking lot.

Mr. Neron added the Superintendent Reports for Considerations, Use of Facilities, and Supplemental Use of Facilities to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Requests for Field Trips

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

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Miss Goncalves asked about the cost of the bus for one school going to another school.

Director of Transportation Mike Rijo stated that the charge is driven by the bus driver's overtime and fuel cost.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she has a serious concern charging a school for a bus to go to another school and would like to discuss this further.

Mr. Neron added the Superintendent Reports for Field Trips and HIB Investigative Results Report to the agenda.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter into Contract, etc.

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the Authorizations Reports.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the Adult Basic Skills and how will our children benefit.

Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil explained that it is for ESL and GED for adults. Mrs. Gil stated that the grant is for up to 90 adults and there are 2 GED classes and 5 ESL classes that are held November through May on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.

Mrs. Barbosa asked how do people apply.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that flyers are circulated and the information is disseminated.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the grant for School No. 7.

Mr. Couto stated that the grant is for a drinking fountain to fill water bottles.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the original grant application was for five schools and all will have an opportunity to develop their school's wellness initiative.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the donation from Friends of Frank Mazza.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that she will follow-up with Mr. Mazza for the details.

Mr. Neron added the Authorizations Report to the agenda.

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

Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the Finance and Accounting Reports.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if this is the last check for the PreK providers.

Mr. Kennedy stated that by statute we have to pay in advance and there is one more check in June when they give us their ending quarterly reports.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we cover the costs in the summer.

Mr. Kennedy responded no.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the payments for April and May to Egenolf.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is an early childhood provider and an independent organization and we cut the check to them. Mr. Kennedy stated that this payment is for two months because of the timing of the Board meetings.

Mr. Neron added the Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers and the Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds to the agenda.

Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the Award of Contracts Reports.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the contract to provide language arts literacy to Our Lady of Guadalupe non-public school.

Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil stated that a certain percentage of Title I funding goes for services for non-public schools and we handle the paperwork.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the contract with Mountain Lakes Board of Education.

Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen explained that these are services for a deaf child.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if it is from early childhood or IDEA.

Director of Special Services Dorothy McMullen responded no and that it is EPS driven.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it gets budgeted in early childhood but we get special education aid that needs to be transferred.

Director of Early Childhood Education Tracy Crosby explained the special education aid in the preschool budget.

Mr. Neron added the Award of Contracts Report, Supplemental Award of Contracts Report, and the 2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report to the agenda.

Miscellaneous Communication (none)

Claims List

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Neron added Miscellaneous Communication and Claims List to the agenda.

Resolution – Cuban American Day

Resolution – Haitian Heritage Month

Resolution – 2017-2018 Maximum Travel Expenditure

Resolution – Contract for Professional Services - Education Law Center

Resolution – Authorizing Board President and School Business Administrator to Execute a Deed Notice Termination, New Deed Notice, and Remedial Action Permit Application Affecting School No. 52

Resolution – Approving Correction to Form of Contract with Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC

Resolution – Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative Coordinated Transportation Services for 2017-2018 School Year

Resolution – Authorizing Board President and School Business Administrator to Approve Lease Agreement for Property Located at 533-547 Division Street (Elberon Development Group)

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Authorizing the Award of a Professional Service Contract and Participation in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) ACESplus Program for Renewable Energy Consulting Services

Resolution – Appointing Askari Construction, Inc. and Approving Form of Contract

Resolution – Appointing Nardone Brothers Baking Company, Inc. and Approving Form of Contract

Resolution – Temporary Short Term Loan

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the resolutions.

Mrs. Carvalho requested a resolution be added to recognize Portugal Day.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the Deed Notice Termination, New Deed Notice and Remedial Action Permit Application Affecting School No. 52.

Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto explained that the courtyard play areas had not been constructed as per the restricted area map filed with the Deed Notice in 2008 and in order to rectify these errors and document the appropriate engineering controls in effect the existing Deed Notice must be terminated and replaced with a new Deed Notice that accurately reflects the existing engineering controls.

Mr. Neron stated that the following resolutions will be held for private session:

Resolution – Authorizing Board President and School Business Administrator to Approve Lease Agreement for Property Located at 533-547 Division Street (Elberon Development Group)

Resolution – Authorizing the Award of a Professional Service Contract and Participation in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) ACESplus Program for Renewable Energy Consulting Services
Resolution – Temporary Short Term Loan

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the Resolution – Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative Coordinated Transportation Services for 2017-2018 School Year.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is setting up the opportunity to transport students. Mr. Kennedy stated that it is not a bus company but hires the vendors to transport.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there was only one bid for the Dairy Products for the District Food Service.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the award of contract for Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC was in the Award of Contracts Report. Mr. Kennedy explained that it is a two-part process and this is a correction for approving the form of the contract.

Mr. Neron added the following resolutions to the agenda:
Resolution – Cuban American Day
Resolution – Haitian Heritage Month
Resolution – 2017-2018 Maximum Travel Expenditure
Resolution – Contract for Professional Services - Education Law Center
Resolution – Authorizing Board President and School Business Administrator to Execute a Deed Notice Termination, New Deed Notice, and Remedial Action Permit Application
Resolution – Approving Correction to Form of Contract with Cream-O-Land Dairies, LLC
Resolution – Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative Coordinated Transportation Services for 2017-2018 School Year
Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Resolution – Appointing Askari Construction, Inc. and Approving Form of Contract
Resolution – Appointing Nardone Brothers Baking Company, Inc. and Approving Form of Contract
Resolution – Portugal Day

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, specifically, contracts for certified and non-certified, supplemental personnel actions, reorganization, non-renewals; legal matters, specifically, extension of contract for public relations, temporary short term loan, renewable energy consulting services, contract for financing bleachers, lease agreement for property; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, J.P., and M.S. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to go into private session at 8:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 6
Negative: None

Mrs. Amin excused herself from the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to reconvene in public session at 9:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Neron added the following to the agenda:

First Reading of Revised Policy File Code No. 6146 Graduation Requirements

Resolution – Authorizing the Award of a Professional Service Contract and Participation in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) ACESplus Program for Renewable Energy Consulting Services

Resolution – Authorizing Board President and School Business Administrator to Approve Lease Agreement for Property Located at 533-547 Division Street (Elberon Development Group)

Resolution – Authorizing Entry into a Tax-Exempt Lease-Purchase Agreement with Municipal Leasing Consultants for Bleachers

Resolution – Temporary Short Term Loan

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2015-10964) – J.P.

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing Public Relations Firm – Strategic Message Management, Inc.
Supplemental Personnel Report

Resolution – Reorganization – Personnel Actions

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

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