

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 8, 2014
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in Victor Mravlag School No. 21, 132 Shelley Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Board President Tony Monteiro welcomed everyone to Victor Mravlag School No. 21 and thanked them for coming. Mr. Monteiro thanked all the staff for allowing us to have our meeting here and stated that Principal MariCeli Sanchez was not present due to a prior commitment. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are continuing to have the Board meetings in different schools throughout the City of Elizabeth to encourage participation by parents and community members and not to hold them in just one location.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:30 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Friday, May 2, 2014. 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.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to our television viewers to this May 8, 2014 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. I also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, I may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must sign in one hour prior to the advertised 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo (arr. 8:10 p.m.), Monteiro – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Rafael Cortes, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Dr. William Greene gave the invocation.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jason Guillen, eighth grade student at Victor Mravlag School No. 21.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Jasiyah LaCroix, Nicole Nunes, and Lenny Valme, seventh grade students at Victor Mravlag School No. 21.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Areanna Vargas, eighth grade student at Victor Mravlag School No. 21.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we have with us tonight high level dignitaries who in their capacity and title have the ability to make a positive difference in the education of our young people. Mr. Monteiro introduced Tete Antonio, Permanent Observer Ambassador of the African Union to the United Nations in New York and Dr. Michael Searson, Executive Director of the School of Global Education, Technology & Innovation at Kean University. Mr. Monteiro commended them in recognition of their support for the education of our youth. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated Tete Antonio and Dr. Michael Searson and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Tete Antonio, Permanent Observer Ambassador of the African Union to the United Nations, thanked the Board for the honor and stated that he represents 54 African countries to the United Nations. Mr. Antonio stated that in the continent of Africa more than 60% are young people and education is the only way you can get progress and the only way you can change the continent. Mr. Antonio stated that some say that youth is the future but a young man told him that youth is the present because unless you teach them now how to handle problems and lead the country then you don't have a continent and don't have a future. Mr. Antonio stated that youth is the present.

Dr. Michael Searson, Executive Director of the School of Global Education, Technology & Innovation at Kean University, thanked the Board for the honor and stated that visiting this school is like coming home to a dear friend and he was here at a time when it didn't look like this. Dr. Searson stated that they consider Elizabeth a great partner and one of things he works with at Kean University is world languages and global education. Dr. Searson stated that he has had the opportunity to travel across the world in his capacity including visiting Angola, Bangladesh, Senegal, Paris, and the Netherlands and has worked with corporate headquarters. Dr. Searson stated that to have a rich discussion on the possibility of developing a world class institution of higher education in Africa with the representative to the United Nations from the African Union he had to come a few blocks from Kean University to School No. 21. Dr. Searson thanked the Board and commented to keep up the good work.

Mr. Monteiro thanked them for attending tonight's meeting.

Mr. Monteiro stated that in celebration of the rich cultural diversity in the Elizabeth Public Schools and in honor of these cultural celebrations throughout the City during the month of May we would like to play the national anthems for Haiti, Portugal, and Cuba.

National Anthem for Haiti
National Anthem for Portugal
National Anthem for Cuba

Mr. Monteiro stated that for the past year and a half the Board of Education decided to take our Elizabeth Board of Education meetings on the road at different schools throughout the City of Elizabeth rather than hosting our meetings just in one location. Mr. Monteiro stated that in this way they can be engaged with the community, parents, staff, and students and one of the things the Board is most proud of are the student performances in each school.

Mr. Monteiro introduced fourth grade students from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 who performed *Revolution* to the beat of *Radioactive*, music by Daniel Wayne Sermon, Daniel Coulter Reynolds, Benjamin Arthur McKee, Alexander Junior Grant and lyrics for *Revolution* by Gregory Marsal. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from the Victor Mravlag School No. 21 Knights Band who performed *Symphony No. 9 (Ode to Joy)* by Ludwig Van Beethoven. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from the Victor Mravlag School No. 21 Knights Choir who performed *For Good* from *Wicked* by Stephen Schwartz. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who performed a dance tribute honoring the legacy of freedom fighter Jean-Jacques Dessalines. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who performed a dance to *Soley Leve* by Freedom and Boukman. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro recognized present and former dignitaries who are here tonight including Councilman Manny Grova, former Councilman Bob Jaspán, Elizabeth Education Association President Rose Carreto, Elizabeth Education Association Vice President Joe Cortico, and two former Elizabeth Board of Education Presidents who were instrumental in getting School No. 21 built during their tenure on the Board Armando DaSilva and Rafael Fajardo.

Mr. Monteiro stated that at this time he and his colleagues would like to recognize our outstanding students, team members, and parents who contribute to the culture and excellence of Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Mr. Monteiro stated that last week he attended a State function with Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and she remarked that the Elizabeth school system is doing incredible. Mr. Monteiro stated that Lt. Governor Guadagno commented that Elizabeth is the fourth largest school district and all the larger school districts above and some below have been taken over by the State of New Jersey for being failed school systems including Newark, Jersey City, and Paterson. Mr. Monteiro stated that Elizabeth is the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and he likes to take the time to give credit where credit is due and it is due to all the hard working members of this Elizabeth school district from the Superintendent to the teachers, support staff, security, custodians, food service, and secretaries in this one incredible organization. Mr. Monteiro stated that for those who have been part of it for the past fifteen years and for people like him who were born and raised here to see this transformation it has been an incredible journey. Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone who works in the district day in and day out to make that happen. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and want to become the Number One School District not only in the State but also in the country. Mr. Monteiro stated that the next phase of this mission is going to include all of the parents being involved, being engaged, and participating in your children's education and the fact that all of you are here tonight is certainly encouraging and inspiring that we are going to reach that goal. Mr. Monteiro thanked the parents on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education for taking their time to be here tonight. Mr. Monteiro stated that what makes this meeting special and makes it different than any other board of education meetings is that we take

the time to recognize the students, staff, parents and members of our community who help make Elizabeth and our school district great.

Mr. Nazco recognized students from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 for exhibiting an excellent work ethic in always striving to achieve academic excellence. Mr. Nazco stated that we are very proud of their success in achieving the highest grades in all academic subjects earning Superintendent's Scholar in three consecutive marking periods including first grade students Michelle Algaba, Matthew Bellucci, Payton Calixto, Alyssa Davis, Michael Diaz, Lucas Ferreira, Leah Goldgraber, Daniel Higgins, Mason Kelly, David Martins, Natalia Ocampo, Katherine Olavarria, Nicholas Santos, and Gabriella Vallo; second grade students Elizabeth Bergen, Aries Fontaine, Tanya Ghani, Mealanie Humberto, Alyssia Kulick, Arianna Kulick, Jayson Labrador, Isabella Mayorga, Madison Pershyn, Gabrielle Rocha, and Nicholas Sarmiento; and fifth grade student Samantha Gonzalez. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez recognized students from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 who participated in Student Government including Hector Abarca and Melanie Gomes, fifth grade; Mayanah McIntosh and Natalie Chappotin, sixth grade; Sara DeAntunes and Michael Batista, seventh grade; and eighth grade students Areanna Vargas, President, and Jason Guillen, Vice President. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized students from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 who were selected for the National Junior Honor Society including seventh grade students Alexa Garcia, Nestor Garcia, and Alexandra Riascos; and eighth grade students Josue Benavides, Jeremy Cacnio, Alejandro Chappotin, Jean Cruz, David Melara, Joseph Noa, Nicholas Pedroza, and Areanna Vargas. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the goal of the Caught Being Good Program at Victor Mravlag School No. 21 is to recognize all students who make positive choices and do the right thing. Mr. Trujillo recognized students from Victor Mravlag School No. 21 who were Caught Being Good including kindergarten student Valerie Quesada; first grade students A'Hira Rodriguez-Williams, Christopher Borrero, Abigail Abarca, Ariana Garcia, Isaiah Ramirez, and Dahlia Sebastiao; second grade students Santiago Fernandez, Ariana Scariato, Gianna Carrasco, and Tyler Jaquez; third grade student Kathleen DeJesus; fourth grade students Niaya Acebo, Dylan Camarinha, Gabrielle Castro, Karly Escobar, Jordan Smith, Michael Wansaw, Jr., Saige Wilson, and Byron Lapola; fifth grade students Hector Abarca, Jordan Calixto, William Clervoyant, Jocelyn Colon, Nalissa Soares, Amy Antunes, Jillian Argona, Nigel Bastos, Sidney Costa, Justin Cullen, Michael DeLeon, Adriano Faustino, Giovanna Franca, Melyssa Martinez, Mia Olavarria, Mathew Pinto, and Isabella Saldarriaga; sixth grade students Nicholas Agostinho, Grace Bijou, Madison Castro, Jayda Clegg, Leanna Jara, Melanie Kennedy, Sebastian Mayorga, Daniela Mercado, Peter Sousa, Jocelene Strategakos, and Michelle Vie; seventh grade students Sara DeAntunes, Jorge Bonilla, Amanda DeLeon, Jasiyah LaCroix, Frank Pineda, Benjamin Rubens, Julius Torres, Lenny Valme, and John Zapata; and eighth grade students Alejandro Chappotin, Jeremy Duran, Nicholas Pedroza, Enzo Pereyra-Campos, Tathiana Reyes, Amandeep Singh, Mariaelena Torres, Matthew Turner, and Areanna Vargas. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro introduced Board member Paul Perreira who for the last several months has been the Finance Chairman of the Budget Committee for the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that with Paul Perreira's hard work, dedication, and commitment, along with the Superintendent, two days ago we voted on, approved, and accepted a budget that will call for 0% tax increase to the residents of the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that he wanted to give Paul and his committee all the credit and congratulated Paul.

Mr. Perreira recognized students from Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 who were ranked highly in the Union County Teen Arts including Nicole Nunes and Alexa Garcia, Poetry; Nestor Garcia, Essay; Joseph Noa, David Melara, Nicholas Pedroza, Abraham Ramirez, Benjamin Rubens, and Areanna Vargas, Narrative; Hayleigh Cullen, Amanda DeLeon, Alexa Garcia, Nestor Garcia, Nicole Nunes, Abraham Ramirez, Alexandra Riascos, Lenny Valme, and Jocelyn Vega, seventh grade art; and Camilah Alarcon, Hannah Jimenez, David Melara, Joseph Noa, Nicholas Pedroza, Tathiana Reyes, and Areanna Vargas, eighth grade art. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. González recognized students from Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 who visited Rutgers University to discuss climate with Professors including Matthew Turney, Nicholas Pedroza, Amandeep Singh, Josue Benavides, Nestor Garcia, and Sandra Antunes. Mr. González and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized students who were the recipients of scholarships through the NJ SEEDS (Scholars, Educators, Excellence, Dedication, Success) Program including Maria Marin and Valeria Mendoza, eighth grade students from Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that SEEDS is a private non-profit organization that prepares motivated, high achieving, low income students for admission to private schools and colleges across the country. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina thanked Carlos Lucio, Principal of Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, and Edison Berrio, guidance counselor, for their efforts in coordinating the participation of the students in the SEEDS program. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we are here in the beautiful new home of Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 and this is all possible due to the outstanding contributions of the many team members of Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 including bus drivers, teachers, secretarial staff, guidance, and food service workers who came together to prepare and open the school in September 2013. Mr. Monteiro thanked all of the team members of Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 for their continuing dedication to a culture of excellence. Mr. Monteiro recognized all the team members from Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 for their outstanding contributions in preparing the new school for an excellent first school year. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the staff members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication in opening the new Victor Mvavlag School No. 21.

Mr. Neron recognized Dora Garcia, CDA at Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, who performed the Heimlich maneuver on a PreK student who was choking. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated Dora Garcia and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized parents at Victor Mvavlag School No. 21 who go above and beyond to contribute to the school learning community. Mr. Trujillo stated that these dedicated parents volunteer many hours during the school day as well as participate in after school activities to help all students and promote a positive school culture. Mr. Trujillo recognized Ana Pineiro, Ruth Smith, Julian Acebo, Cristina Morgado, Paolo Periera, Lizeth Wansaw, Eric Kulick, and Sharon Calixto. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the parents and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized Maria Almeida from the Elizabeth Youth Soccer who has contributed countless hours of time over the years to the promotion of soccer in the community and is retiring after fifteen years of dedication to the children of Elizabeth in the sport of soccer. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated Maria Almeida and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized former City Councilman of the 3rd Ward Robert Jaspan who was instrumental in proposing this new school, Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Jaspan also donated all the artwork in the lobby of Victor Mravlag School No. 21. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated Robert Jaspan and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this month is the celebration of Portugal Day and recognized County Freeholder Sergio Granados, President of the Portugal Day Committee Julio Alfonso, and Grand Marshall of the Portuguese Day Parade Manny Grova, and the entire Portugal Day Parade Committee. Mr. Monteiro read a resolution in recognition of the Portuguese community.

Mr. Neron and Ms. Bathelus stated that this month is Haitian Heritage Month and recognized all in attendance of Haitian descent. Ms. Bathelus read a resolution in recognition of the Haitian community.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he is the son of a Cuban political prisoner and having to hear the stories of how they were oppressed and then adopted by this country, made it their own and they were welcomed with so much love. Mr. Trujillo stated that here we have the opportunity to hold public office, to serve our community, to speak our minds, to vote for whoever we want, and to voice our opinions in freedom. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are very grateful to this country for adopting us and allowing us to do that. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is a special moment for him to be able to recognize one special Cuban-American present tonight who is a leader in his community. Mr. Trujillo stated that this school would not have been built if it were not for the tireless hours and commitment to the community because he knows and understands what it means to have an education in this great country. Mr. Trujillo stated that every child in this country has the right to have a free education, a quality education, and to be able to have it in a building like this means more than you can imagine, not to just immigrants from all over the world but to Cuban-Americans especially. Mr. Trujillo stated that for us it is an incredible privilege and this gentleman fought long and hard for this to happen and dedicated more than sixteen years to this school district. Mr. Trujillo introduced Rafael Fajardo and stated that it is only fitting that he come forward along with all of the Cuban-Americans. Mr. Trujillo read a resolution in honor of Cuban-American Day.

Ms. Bathelus excused herself from the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Board President Monteiro presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the 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. Monteiro called twice upon the first public participant, Latifa Ali, to address the Board. Latifa Ali did not come forward.

Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mr. Monteiro declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mr. Nazco read the following letter addressed to Mr. Kennedy:

“Please accept this letter as official notice of my resignation as Commissioner of the Elizabeth Board of Education effective Thursday, May 8, 2014. I have had the pleasure of serving on this Board since 2007 but due to both personal and professional commitments I must relinquish my seat as Commissioner. My time serving on this Board has been truly rewarding. I have had the opportunity to work with many great individuals that have moved this district forward and made it become the Number One Urban School District in New Jersey. It is an accomplishment that I am very proud to be able to say that I have been a part of. I would like to thank our Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer and her staff for her tireless dedication to the children of our city. It has been an honor to work with you. To my colleagues on the Board both past and present I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you. We have shown that when you work together as a team you can achieve excellence. I wish the Board, the Superintendent and her staff continued success but most of all I wish that the children of this city continue to make us proud as they fulfill their destiny of making the Elizabeth Public Schools not only the best school system in New Jersey but the best school system in our great nation. Sincerely, Fernando Nazco.”

Mr. Nazco stated that he was tendering his resignation from the Board effective immediately.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we are shocked and saddened by this early departure from the Elizabeth Board of Education and that his time here has been greatly appreciated. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Nazco has served with class, compassion, conviction, and dedication and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside you. Mr. Monteiro stated that he followed in his footsteps as President of the Board of Education and learned a great deal from him and thanked him on behalf of the children of the City of Elizabeth for all that he has done and all that he will continue to do in the future.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to accept the resignation of Board member Fernando Nazco effective immediately.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they only had a few months together and it was a pleasure to work with him.

Mr. González stated that he had the pleasure to run with Mr. Nazco for two elections and they learned a lot together for the past six years and had many good memories. Mr. González stated that he is saddened to see him leave and wished him the best in his future endeavor. Mr. González commented that he will miss him on this campaign but knows he will have his support in November. Mr. González thanked Mr. Nazco for his time serving, for being a friend and running mate and commented God bless his family.

Mr. Perreira stated that he is very sad to hear this news. Mr. Perreira stated that when he first came on the Board Mr. Nazco was very helpful guiding him along with what it took to be part of the Board. Mr. Perreira stated that since then they have become close and definitely knows he will see him around town. Mr. Perreira thanked him and wished the best to him and his family.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that ever since she came to the Board Mr. Nazco was her mentor taking her under his wing and showed her about the Board. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that it was an honor to be his Vice President and thanked him very much.

Ms. Bathelus returned to the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he and Fernando are childhood friends. Mr. Trujillo stated that he couldn't hit Fernando's knuckleball when he was a kid and probably still can't. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has had the pleasure of serving on this Board with two childhood friends and it just goes to show that there are good people in Elizabeth who want to serve, who grew up here and love this town and really want to sacrifice and he can see a lot of them here in this room. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is what the fabric of Elizabeth is and we all don't always agree on everything but we can all agree on one thing, Elizabeth is a special place and we all deserve for it to be a good place and we have to work hard and sacrifice. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Nazco has sacrificed a lot and he has a beautiful family. Mr. Trujillo thanked Mr. Nazco's wife for lending him to us for such a long time and for all those hours. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows what it is like to miss so many opportunities with your children and he is happy that he is going to spend time with his family. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Nazco knew in his heart what he was doing here was for his children, our children, and all the children and this is work that has to be done. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Nazco did it with dignity, with a lot of honor, made us all very proud and was an incredible colleague on this Board and wished him all the best in the world.

Mr. Neron stated that he didn't have much time to work with Mr. Nazco. Mr. Neron stated that it takes a lot to be a public servant and to serve and he knows Mr. Nazco is a family man. Mr. Neron wished him all the best and commended him for his willingness to serve and for all the work he has done.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he has known Mr. Nazco for about three years and he has always respected him and this profession and the job that he does. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he can walk out of here with his head held high and with no regrets and congratulated Mr. Nazco.

Ms. Bathelus congratulated Mr. Nazco and stated that when she first became a Board member he was very open, accepting, and helped her along when he was President and thanked him. Ms. Bathelus wished him all the best.

Mr. Nazco thanked everyone for the kind words. Mr. Nazco thanked his family and stated that he came on the Board in 2007 and is very honored to be a member of this body. Mr. Nazco stated that we made some very significant strides in that time and he is happy to say that he is part of it and contributed and is something that he can always remember very fondly. Mr. Nazco stated that there is a lot of work left to do. Mr. Nazco stated that he would also like to thank the public, the people who voted for him and put their trust in him to make decisions for the community and for their children. Mr. Nazco stated that being an elected official and being a public servant isn't something that should be taken very lightly. Mr. Nazco stated that you have a lot of responsibility and one thing he can say is that whatever decisions he made, whether they were popular or not, he made with the best intentions of the children, putting them first and everything else second. Mr. Nazco stated that the seat he is vacating is a decision that has to be taken upon very carefully. Mr. Nazco stated that there is someone in the community who has a wealth of experience and helped move this district forward and helped to get this district to where it is today. Mr. Nazco stated that as a private citizen he is requesting that this Board name Rafael Fajardo as his replacement and asked the Board to consider him filling the seat that he is vacating. Mr. Nazco thanked everyone on behalf of himself and his family and wished the children of the City of Elizabeth the best.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Nazco.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to appoint Rafael Fajardo as a Board member to fill the vacant seat.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that this is a very important seat that is going to be filled and our bylaws state that we have up to 65 days to find any replacement for any Board member that were to resign. Mr. Rodriguez stated that because this is such an important seat he is asking his colleagues and he knows there is a nomination for an ex-member who has a lot of experience and no doubt would probably do a good job but he believes we should do our due diligence and find out perhaps if anyone else in the community would like the position, to have an opportunity to apply, also to be interviewed and then we can pick from a pool of candidates who the best candidate is especially because we are entrusting the lives of 25,000 students and over 4,000 employees. Mr. Rodriguez asked his colleagues to do their due diligence and let's see who else in the community might have an interest.

Mr. Neron stated that he echoes the sentiments of Mr. Rodriguez that we should consider this and open up the process and do a selection process. Mr. Neron stated that we should make a decision that is in the best interest of the children and the district with all due respect.

Mr. Perreira stated that he understands both sides. Mr. Perreira stated that knowing the person that was nominated for a seat that expires in November, which whoever in this entire City is willing to run and is eligible to run for the seat can do so at that time, he doesn't see anyone better qualified who has been trusted for the past sixteen or more years and has been reelected for all those years to be the person to at least fill this seat for that temporary time. Mr. Perreira stated that he will support the nomination.

Mr. González stated that he agrees with the sentiments of Mr. Perreira. Mr. González stated that he ran his first election campaign with Rafael Fajardo and he doesn't think there is anyone else in the City who has the experience, dedication, and passion to be a Board member. Mr. González stated that he supports the nomination of his peers to choose Rafael Fajardo.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she would like to add as a parent that she has seen the growth and development of this educational system for the past years and it is amazing. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she works in a different district and all she hears is the best thing about our district, the Number One Urban School District, the number of schools being built, full day early childhood centers, full day PreK programs where all our children benefit meaning that the parents don't have to pay for any daycare facilities, new academies for our children which are based on a lottery system, six high school academies and two of them are one of the best in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that we have to see what contributions the Board has made for the past years. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she is the representative to the Union County Educational Services Commission and many of the board members remember Rafael Fajardo and yesterday they used Mr. Fajardo's philosophy to make a big decision. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that we have to consider the contributions each one of us has made and when we get a good choice don't let it go.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he has had the pleasure to serve on this Board with Mr. Fajardo and he remembers being at the groundbreaking of this school with Mr. Fajardo. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Fajardo saw this through and said his grandchildren would someday come to this school and they hadn't been born yet. Mr. Trujillo stated that little did he know that Mr. Fajardo would have two beautiful grandchildren who do attend this school. Mr. Trujillo stated that going throughout the whole community you would be hard pressed and it would be very difficult to find someone as there are few people in this City that have given so much for so long to the community. Mr. Trujillo stated that as a father, as a taxpayer, he can't imagine anyone else who would fight harder for his children and for the taxpayers. Mr. Trujillo stated that it has been a privilege working with him and they don't always agree but we do agree on one thing, that Elizabeth is a great place and this school system needs to shine, and we will fight for that. Mr. Trujillo asked his colleagues to vote for this and he hopes it will be a unanimous decision because it is hard pressed to find anyone with Mr. Fajardo's tenacity and love for his City. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is a temporary fill and the work here is very important and it is important to have

someone here who is willing to do the work and put in the countless hours. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Fajardo gives his all and asked that we all consider that in this nomination when you vote and that we vote yes, in the affirmative, for Mr. Rafael Fajardo.

Mr. Monteiro stated that there has been a nomination by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, therefore the Elizabeth Board of Education's pleasure is that we need to take a vote on this nomination. Mr. Monteiro stated that as to his colleagues on the Board who said that when there is a vacancy on the Board typically you can take 65 days, he stated this isn't one of those times when right here and right in front of us today and the question we are going to ask him shortly is whether or not he would accept this nomination. Mr. Monteiro stated that he concurs with what Mr. Trujillo and all the Board members said about Mr. Fajardo. Mr. Monteiro stated that when he started in politics in 1994 and ran for City Council and won, he and Mr. Fajardo were on opposite sides. Mr. Monteiro stated that he didn't understand Mr. Fajardo's insanity at the time, how much he put in to the City of Elizabeth, and then he came to find out it wasn't insanity at all, it was passion, just an incredible passion he had for this Elizabeth school district. Mr. Monteiro stated that he got to see it over the years because he worked alongside Mr. Fajardo, campaigned together, and served together on the Board. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Fajardo has been an inspiration and a mentor, and he has learned a great deal from Mr. Fajardo as he has had through this journey of politics, a very difficult one at times, you make friends and you make enemies, you are not always going to be popular, and you may not always be right but when you do things for the right reasons then at the end it comes out alright. Mr. Monteiro stated that Rafael Fajardo was the architect who transformed this school district from one of the worst school districts when he wrestled it away from the political power brokers who appointed board members, controlled the schools and didn't really care whether the schools were succeeding or not, and it mattered more about who they were putting in positions, what contracts they were giving out, and didn't really care about the results. Mr. Monteiro stated that Rafael Fajardo, his team, and his friends with nickels and dimes and with copy machines put together campaigns and today look where we are, the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro stated that all of the other large urban school districts have been taken over by the State of New Jersey and today we are so proud of the results in our school district. Mr. Monteiro stated that in Trenton they may not talk a lot about our school district which is sad and unfortunate because our State Senator Ray Lesniak doesn't let them and doesn't want anyone to know about the successes in our school district. Mr. Monteiro stated that we know, the parents know, the staff, teachers, and administrators know what is happening right here in our school district and it is all about the results. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is not about any one of us here who gets elected but it is about what is happening here in the schools, the students, and the progress and it is happening. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have been recognized by the Washington Post as having the Number One High School in the State of New Jersey, three National Blue Ribbon Schools, three-time National Champion Marching High School Band invited to the Super Bowl, and we have a lot of things to be proud of including great staff and great energy. Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Fajardo if he would accept the nomination if he were appointed here tonight.

Mr. Fajardo responded yes.

Mr. Rodriguez asked Mr. Lehman for a point of clarification and asked if they are able to appoint someone to the Board of Education who has an open case in court.

Mr. Lehman asked Mr. Rodriguez to repeat his question.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that when we appoint a member or when someone is on the Board of Education can they be on the Board of Education if they have an open case, that the Board of Education has an open case against that member.

Mr. Lehman responded that he is not aware of any open case against Mr. Fajardo if that is what he is referring to.

Mr. Trujillo stated that just so he can clarify the situation Mr. Rodriguez has a fiduciary responsibility and took an oath and if he knows something that this Board needs to know he needs to say it now.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this is not a debate we are voting either yes or no.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Gonzalez, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 5

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Rafael Fajardo took the oath of office administered by Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he is honored to have this nomination and acceptance by the Board. Mr. Fajardo stated that he would have never accepted this wonderful opportunity, this wonderful honor as a citizen if he had not thought for the last few minutes asking his family for their support and blessing. Mr. Fajardo stated that there is a dark cloud in this City and the cloud wants to stop the progress that you see going on here, and a cloud that campaigns are being financed by the wrong people. Mr. Fajardo stated that he is here for the children, his family is here and his grandchildren and nieces and nephew attend the Elizabeth Public Schools system. Mr. Fajardo stated that his children all graduated from the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mr. Fajardo stated that while some people were having a great time in other towns we were fighting for the children of the City of Elizabeth so they would have a good opportunity to have a good education. Mr. Fajardo stated that he is very proud to say that his oldest daughter is a hard working administrator in School No. 12 and his youngest daughter Madeline just became an attorney in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Mr. Fajardo stated that his daughters graduated from this school, Victor Mravlag School No. 21.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he is here to serve whether they supported him or not and the record speaks for itself. Mr. Fajardo stated so that they understand why he is here we have put every child in this school district in uniform and he remembers when the kids didn't have uniforms to go to school and the days when they had to ask people to donate clothes to give to some of the kids because they didn't have decent clothes to go to school. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers when they had a computer center at the Mitchell Building and kids would go once a month for two hours to learn about computers and now we have computers in every classroom in our district. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers when there were 45 kids to a classroom at the high school and there were some people who are supporting members of this Board of Education who fought us so our children wouldn't have the opportunity to have a good education. Mr. Fajardo stated that now we are building a brand new high school next to Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Fajardo stated that we built School Nos. 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 50, 51, 52, and we are building a brand new high school and that is because of the effort of this Board of Education that he had the honor to serve for so many years. Mr. Fajardo stated that those people that feel differently, the proof is in the pudding as they say. Mr. Fajardo stated that he is here to serve and he hopes he will make a difference for the children of the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Fajardo stated that when he walks into this building he is so proud and recognized the people who made it possible including the staff and Director of Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers when the plans for this building were finalized to go for construction he was in the hospital having had major surgery and the Lord spared him perhaps for a moment like this. Mr. Fajardo stated that his grandchildren were not even born at the time and they are here and attend this school. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers saying at that time that he will see his grandchildren go to this school and thanked God for this wonderful opportunity.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Fajardo and stated that he is happy to have him serving on this Board.

Mr. Monteiro thanked all the principals, supervisors, and staff for being here tonight and for all that they continue to do for our district.

The Board went into recess at 10:05 p.m.

Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, and Monteiro reconvened at 10:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2014 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2014

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

Mr. Monteiro requested that the Employment of Tenured and Non-Tenured Certified Personnel Report be held for private session.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the amended report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated faculty and staff who are retiring, thanked them for their years of service to the district, and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.

Mr. Fajardo returned to the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Somerset Hills School, Warren, NJ), Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is not that he doesn't want to provide the student with a proper education but he doesn't believe the school is doing the best job possible.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees except that the S.O.A.R. Program be approved as recommended with a waiver of facility fees.

Mr. Monteiro asked about the cost of the request from the S.O.A.R. Program. Mr. Monteiro stated that knowing what we face with our budget sacrifices this request is in excess of \$100,000.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the cost is \$100,440.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he has been giving this some thought because of the price tag of this. Mr. Monteiro stated that we waive the facility fees for a lot of these groups and a lot of his colleagues comment. Mr. Monteiro asked if we can discuss this with the City of Elizabeth to see if somehow we can find a middle road with regard to the road.

Mr. Neron stated that he would like to provide clarification and of those fees \$35,040. is paid for the custodian and maintenance and it is not a total waiver of all fees.

Mr. Kennedy explained that in the past for the summer program we provided the facilities with a waiver of the facility fees and the City has provided reimbursement for the bus, custodian, and security.

Mr. Monteiro asked what the net cost would be for the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mr. Kennedy responded the net cost would be the cost of the facility and the administration recommended waiving those fees for the S.O.A.R. Program and the City is going to pay us \$35,040.

Mr. Perreira stated that the net is \$65,400.

Mr. Kennedy responded that we are allowing the S.O.A.R. Program to use our facility and the pool also.

Mr. Trujillo stated that the S.O.A.R. Program is a great program and his concern has always been the lack of inclusiveness. Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows it is not in all the schools all the time. Mr. Trujillo stated that he believes the after school program was done at School No. 23 although some of the children are bussed across town. Mr. Trujillo stated that maybe we need to consider if there is a more centralized way of doing this or cut down on the transportation cost because he knows children are bussed from the Elizabethport.

Mr. Neron stated that we don't do that and a majority of the kids come from School No. 23 and the North End of town. Mr. Neron stated that there is another program, the Safe Haven Program, that is funded by the City that is downtown in the First Ward. Mr. Neron stated that the kids from the First Ward go to the Safe Haven Program.

Mr. Trujillo asked what is the difference between the programs.

Mr. Neron stated that it is a different location, same program.

Mr. Trujillo asked why it is named different.

Mr. Neron responded that it is a very similar program and the same types of services are provided.

Mr. Trujillo asked what school it is housed in.

Mr. Neron stated that it is held at the recreation center.

Ms. Bathelus stated that she is a graduate and testament of the S.O.A.R. Program and it has taught her and many other students over the last several years leadership skills and several things that contribute to the person she is today. Ms. Bathelus stated that she hopes her colleagues can support this recommendation to waive all the fees because it is tremendous and it helps not only the students around School No. 23 but later on we come back to assist. Ms. Bathelus stated that she was able to work at the S.O.A.R. Program, the Safe Haven Program, and at the BFL Program. Ms. Bathelus stated that it is a tremendous asset to the community at large.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the S.O.A.R. Program is going to service pretty much all of our students in this program and while it is a high cost it looks like we are getting a discount because the City is going to pay \$35,000. out of the \$100,000. Mr. Rodriguez stated that our budget has been cut and we had to make sacrifices all around the district and some of our after school programs are going to be pared back a little due to the budget cuts. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he can see this program as taking some of those at-risk programs at a discounted rate. Mr. Rodriguez stated that even though it seems like we are going to be paying out of pocket \$100,000. we are getting a discount from the City of \$35,000. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it seems that we are getting these after school programs at a discounted rate. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is a good use, it is a lot of money but especially because of our budget constraints this could be that safety net that some of these children need especially in the high risk area.

Mr. González asked how many children the program serves.

Mr. Neron stated that in the summer there are approximately 200 students.

Mr. Trujillo stated that his general concern is the availability and inclusiveness of everyone. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Elmora Racquet Club has a great dance program for girls and had he not been told by the young lady who actually runs the program and is a teacher at School No. 7 he would not have been aware of that. Mr. Trujillo stated that his daughter does not get to participate in that because it is first come, first served and she lives on the other side of town. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is afraid that we are getting into this too with some of these services and we have housed it at School No. 23 for a long time. Mr. Trujillo stated that perhaps it is a good idea to look into housing it somewhere else so we can bring more kids into the fold and we don't keep it on one side of town, maybe centralize it so it is accessible to the whole community and not just to that community in one side of town. Mr. Trujillo asked how many are served at the center at First Street.

Mr. Neron stated that he agrees with the sentiments in regards to providing additional services to kids throughout the City and it is the goal to expand and include more programs throughout different schools. Mr. Neron stated that they would like to have further discussion about expanding the program and putting them in different schools. Mr. Neron stated that one of the key reasons why the S.O.A.R. Program is strategically located in that area is that there are not enough programs in that part of town for a lot of the youth in the summer, especially in the North End and the Oakwood Plaza area. Mr. Neron stated that there is a history of kids not having recreation programs in the summer and whereas different parts of town had programs so that is a

reason why it is there. Mr. Neron stated that it services the entire North End including kids from Westminster Academy, Ronald Reagan Academy, School No. 23, and all the neighboring schools in that area have access to go to that program and throughout the City as stated earlier. Mr. Neron stated that he concurs with the need to create more programs which is something that the City would want to do. Mr. Neron stated that the program has been there for over fifteen years and has a long history and has a great following of residents and children from our school district. Mr. Neron stated that we help support the school, help work with the teachers providing additional tutoring and enrichment programs. Mr. Neron stated that we also have several community partnerships such as the Elizabeth Municipal Alliance, Alcohol Tobacco and Drug Prevention, Teenage Pregnancy Prevention, Planned Parenthood, and a number of organizations to provide intervention for our youth. Mr. Neron stated that it is of great value to the residents and is something that is for the kids and it is all about the kids. Mr. Neron stated that they get a great sense of mentorship, leadership and career development as they get older.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he does not disagree with Mr. Neron. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is an excellent program and any time we get the opportunity to expose our children to something positive especially mentors and professionals in our community we are doing them a great service. Mr. Trujillo stated that his concern is that School No. 23 is isolated and far from different bus routes and the accessibility to the rest of the community. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have great facilities like Ronald Reagan and School No. 16 in the North End to house these programs and open it up. Mr. Trujillo stated that even in the Elizabethport we have School No. 28 and School No. 25 that we can expand and grow and offer it to more children. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know what the cost is to the City to run these programs but we could have better choices of facilities to expand the program to be more inclusive and get more kids to go to them. Mr. Trujillo stated that the dance program that the City runs he would love to see them do something in the Elizabethport like that and he hears that it is very popular in Elmora and there are more than 200 children who participate in that program alone. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are thousands of little girls in Elizabethport who would love to learn to dance. Mr. Trujillo stated that even if that program were centralized somewhere in between here and there it would give everybody an even chance. Mr. Trujillo stated that he just can't imagine with the resources and the inability to have access to transportation that program being housed at the Racquetball Club makes it hard for other children to access it. Mr. Trujillo stated that he wished they would consider moving it.

Mr. Neron stated that some further discussion can take place to expand the programs.

Mr. Monteiro stated that for many of these nonprofit organizations that used our facilities throughout the years we have done an outstanding job of trying to provide our facilities, which are tax paid facilities, to our community. Mr. Monteiro stated that his concern is that when you take the politics aside and it gets to the crazy and silly season about criticizing the Board of Education because last year they had a small tax levy increase and then the City crucifies the Board of Education for raising taxes. Mr. Monteiro stated that this year we faced one of the most incredible, most difficult budgets that we've had to face in many years and \$40 million needed to be cut and along with those cuts come programs, personnel, and many great things that happen here in the district. Mr. Monteiro stated that as much as we would like to do more for our community and not just only our youth but with our seniors and our facilities being afforded to them it is going to be difficult going forward. Mr. Monteiro stated that all he asks from his colleagues is that respect we all ask from each other and that when other organizations come up and use facilities as has been the case in the past when Board members voted them down for instance, At Heart's Length, a community based organization that is providing movie nights, health fairs, all wonderful things to the community and he supports and will continue to support as long as the budget allows. Mr. Monteiro stated that all he asks is for the respect that we have for each other and that we understand and appreciate these programs. Mr. Monteiro stated that he will continue to support the S.O.A.R. Program but he wants to be respectful to these members who from time to time criticize other facility uses and inject politics into where they say they

shouldn't be. Mr. Monteiro stated that these are good causes helping the youth but at the same time there are sacrifices this Board is going to have to make in the future because the money just isn't there and the State is cutting back and we just can't keep taxing and putting the burden and the pain on the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that he understands what Ms. Bathelus was saying to support at-risk youth and he supports and understands but it has to be equality for all students and for all children of the City of Elizabeth to do more with less. Mr. Monteiro stated that he will be supporting this and he hopes that the City understands the sacrifices we make here at the Board collectively. Mr. Monteiro stated that he hopes to do more in years to come and hopes that the financial difficulties that we face now won't be there and we can open more of our facilities and create more youth recreation programs throughout the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he remembers a while back that the amount the City owed had accumulated to a very large amount and asked if it was the same fee.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it is part of the same program and the S.O.A.R. program runs through the school year and this is their summer program.

Mr. Trujillo stated that there was at one time an issue where we had problems collecting it and it was a substantial amount of money that the City never paid us and we waived it.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it was the time when there was some consideration about policing at the high schools and the City was charging us for that and we were waiving the fees for our security and our custodians for a City program. Mr. Kennedy stated that eventually those fees were waived at the request of the Board.

Mr. Trujillo stated that is something that concerns him is to make sure, as Mr. Monteiro stated, that these things are very costly and we are operating in very lean times and it is important that we all commit to being sure that when we do waive these fees and we do partner with the City that we get our money.

Mr. Kennedy stated that in the past since the issue was settled they always send a voucher in for the security, custodial, and transportation fees.

Mr. Monteiro stated that it would be great if we had better relationships with City Hall and he hopes we will get there. Mr. Monteiro stated that from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. our schools are open and we had custodial and security at the site but the problem is from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and it is the extra 3 hours when our schools are not open and that is where it is costing a lot of money. Mr. Monteiro stated that if we had the relationship that we should have with the City we could do more with less because this is just a matter of planning and dialogue. Mr. Monteiro stated that because the school is not open after 2 p.m. we are picking up all those extra costs.

Mr. Kennedy stated that with the reality of our 2014-2015 budget it is going to be more than just hoping that we can do it, we have to do it because we did not include in the budget any of those extra costs.

Mr. Monteiro stated that next year with the lean budget we are going to have to talk to all organizations and there are going to be sacrifices and fees need to be incurred. Mr. Monteiro stated that we can do more with less but not just the S.O.A.R. program but with all organizations.

Mr. Kennedy stated that our facilities are there but it is the cost of the personnel that have to be paid.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he is all for the use of the facilities but there is the cost of personnel and other matters and there may be some fees for these organizations. Mr. Monteiro

stated that he doesn't think we are going to be able to do much more with the economic times in the State. Mr. Monteiro stated that everyone knows how strong he feels about imposing any more burdens on the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth because they are overtaxed and overburdened already. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have to learn to do more with less and live within our means. Mr. Monteiro stated that today the town of West Orange presented a budget with a 0% tax increase for their municipality and obviously other towns could do it and we could do it here in the City of Elizabeth and we just need to work together.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (abstain- requests from At Heart's Length), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo (abstain- request from Centro Civico Cultural, Councilman Carlos Cedeno, request from Elizabeth PAL, request from New Zion Baptist Church, requests from At Heart's Length, request from Make A Wish), González, Perreira, Rodriguez (abstain- request from At Heart's Length), Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that her report includes highlights from InsideEPS beginning with the article *2014-2015 Budget of the Elizabeth Board of Education Presented on Tuesday May 6th* and asked in challenging times such as these how do we establish a budget that is committed to our core values so that we are able to move on to our next level of work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we continue to be focused on our 3 E's Equity, Expectations, and Excellence, our vision that the Elizabeth Public Schools will be one of the best school systems in America and our mission for the Elizabeth Public Schools to provide excellent educational experiences and services to inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we presented on Tuesday, May 6th the 2014-2015 budget of the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is a budget that has allowed us to maintain the educational improvement efforts we have put in place in recent budgets, and sustain the strong academic progress our students are making. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this budget is providing an equal educational opportunity for all students that require funding public schools at levels 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 this also requires sufficient funds for schools serving our high numbers of low income students, English language learners, and students with other special needs. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have worked diligently to craft a budget that prioritizes and protects school-based instructional positions and closely aligns our limited resources with our ambitious educational aspirations. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that over the past several years we have seen both tremendous change and strong academic progress at the Elizabeth Public Schools and by most academic measures we

continue to see impressive gains in student learning and success. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this budget recommendation solidly supports our instructional priorities and continues to tightly align our resources to our educational mission. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with this proposed budget we will be able to sustain the great work happening in our classrooms and keep pushing forward toward our ambitious goal of every child achieving excellence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in short we will enable our teachers, leaders, and staff to continue to do remarkable work with our students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Invited to be a Part of innovateNJ Team* and earlier this year Evo Popoff, New Jersey Department of Education Assistant Commissioner/Chief Innovation Officer and Takecia Saylor, Director of School Innovation visited classroom in grades K-12 to learn about the innovative practices at Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools has been invited to collaborate with fellow innovative school districts and their respective leaders as the New Jersey Department of Education hosts the *First Annual innovateNJ Community* convening on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the *innovateNJ* initiative has been formed to foster sharing of practices, programs, and policies around innovative instructional models and school structures that facilitate college and career readiness and achievement of the Common Core State Standards for the students of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that moreover, research based practices such as one-to-one personalized learning, competency based blended and flipped classroom models are being utilized around the world to transform the educational experiences of students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the *innovateNJ Community* seeks to help ensure that information and resources are shared via the identification and spotlighting of New Jersey school districts that are leading the charge in assisting all school districts in New Jersey with the implementation of innovative practices, instructional, and school models. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this is an opportunity to share specific examples and resources that will re-conceptualize, envision, adapt, and replicate innovative best practices that are happening across the State of New Jersey.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is the *Ford Foundation Project with EPS* and districts across the country are reconfiguring themselves to provide more and better learning time to students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that expanding the school day and year opens doors for advancing reform priorities in new and innovative ways. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Ford Foundation in partnership with Cross and Joftus is working to develop a deeper understanding on how districts are allocating resources to allow for expanded learning and navigating state policy structures to create a supportive climate for this work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that together, the Ford Foundation and Cross and Joftus will work with EPS to gain a deeper understanding of how our school district can continue to address the needs of financing expanded learning time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they will help us document the costs associated with various models of expanded learning time, help us to identify potential revenue sources, and identify the types of support/technical assistance that the Ford More and Better Learning Time school districts, including our own, will need to reallocate resources to sustain extended learning time over the long-term.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last article is *EPS Attended the Panasonic Foundation Leadership Conference* and the Elizabeth Public Schools' Leadership Council attended the Panasonic Foundation Leadership Associates Program Conference on May 1-3, 2014. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the attendees at the conference included Montgomery County Public Schools from Maryland, Prince George's County from Maryland, Highline School District from Washington, Oakland Unified School District from California, Racine Unified School District from Wisconsin, and San Diego Public Schools from California. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the theme of the conference this year was "Equity and Excellence, Access and Success" and the objectives centered on the importance of expanding knowledge of key leverage points for creating classrooms, schools, and districts that successfully break the links between race, poverty, and educational outcomes. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a focus on deepening our understanding of approaches to leadership at all levels for successfully creating and sustaining cultures and structures for high performance for ALL students and on how to promote system-wide coherence and alignment around the instructional core (the interrelationship between teaching, learning, and

content). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the conference provided an excellent venue to gather information and dialogue about our district's initiatives in relation to Equity, Expectations, and Excellence and to chart the next six months of our work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the keynote speakers for the conference included Glendale Union High School District who presented "Building a Culture of Excellence for All Students" and the College Board recently recognized the district for being the National Advanced Placement District of the Year among medium-sized school districts with 400 or more students signed on to take AP courses during the past two years and among the students taking AP courses 51% scored a 3 or higher on the exams during 2012. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that one of Glendale Union's core beliefs is that all students can learn and that long before a student takes their first AP exam teachers in all classes have set high expectations and have prepared students for challenging AP course work and as a district they encourage all students to participate in Advanced Placement classes. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Glendale team members afforded the participants at the conference to participate in three breakout sessions centered on Improving Access and Outcomes for Advanced Placement Programs, Promoting the Success of English Language Learners, and Common Core Implementation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all three sessions provided session attendees the opportunity to not only gain strategies from the presenters but also to share experiences for implementing the practices that have helped move a district that serves traditionally underserved students forward.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for her report.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer, her staff, and Chairman of the Finance Committee Paul Perreira for the months of hard work on a difficult budget. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are going to continue the hard work, focus, and mission of this Elizabeth Board of Education in providing excellent student services to the children of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that the banner behind us says it all, 0% tax increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that the 0% tax increase was a directive we gave to the Finance Chairman Paul Perreira that we didn't want the Elizabeth taxpayers to have any more pain that they have had already with regard to their property taxes. Mr. Monteiro stated that although it was a difficult budget the Superintendent's team did an incredible job and we are going to continue our vision of becoming the Number One School System in America. Mr. Monteiro stated that Paul Perreira spent many countless hours in meetings going over budgets and thanked Paul Perreira and his committee for their hard work.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo stated that he would really like to vote yes on this because he knows it will continue the progress of the Elizabeth Public Schools but since he does not have all the information he has to abstain. Mr. Fajardo stated let's continue the progress.

Supplemental Authorizations Report – 2014-2015 School Calendars, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. González, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Messrs. Fajardo, Monteiro – 2

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Abstain: Messrs. Fajardo, González – 2

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Fajardo – 1

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez (abstain- Jose Rodriguez), Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Messrs. Fajardo, Monteiro – 2

Negative: None

Resolution – Essex County Educational Services Home Instruction Services for 2014-2015
School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Portugal Day

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – National Teacher Appreciation Week

Mr. Fajardo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Cuban American Day

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Special Education Week

Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

The first reading was done of the following revised policies:

Policy File Code 2224 Affirmative Action, Nondiscrimination

Policy File Code 4111 Recruitment, Selection and Hiring

Policy File Code 4111.1

4211.1 Affirmative Action, Nondiscrimination

Policy File Code 4211 Recruitment, Selection and Hiring

Policy File Code 5141 Health

Policy File Code 5145.4 Equal Educational Opportunity

Policy File Code 6121 Affirmative Action, Nondiscrimination

Policy File Code 6145 Extracurricular Activities

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 L.M., employment of tenured and non-tenured personnel for the 2014-2015 school year; Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results; and workers' compensation cases, specifically, E.D., N.G., R.G., and D.B. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to go into private session at 11:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo excused himself from the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 12:45 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Personnel Report – Employment of Tenured and Non-Tenured Certified Personnel Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the Employment of Tenured and Non-Tenured Certified Personnel Report be accepted and placed on the Personnel Report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira (abstain- M.P., D.M., L.R., C.C., G.D., L.C.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

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

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Acceptance of Resignation effective June 30, 2014 – LM.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2012-8554 – E.D.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2013-1844 – N.G.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the Colombian community is holding elections for the President and voting will be at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 on May 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that four years ago the President came and said the residents could vote here as they could vote in Colombia.

Mr. Neron sent special gratitude to all the teachers in Elizabeth for Teacher Appreciation Week. Mr. Neron thanked the Board for their support with the Office of Youth Services and S.O.A.R. Program and proceeding with allowing that partnership to continue. Mr. Neron stated that the kids this summer will appreciate it and the families and children throughout the district will enjoy the benefits of having an enrichment and recreation program. Mr. Neron stated that hopefully we can do more to expand throughout the City to impact our City's youth and help provide them with a safe haven.

Mr. Monteiro commended Mr. Neron for the work he does with the children.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Board member Paul Perreira for his leadership on the Finance Committee. Mr. Rodriguez thanked his colleagues who voted yes on the S.O.A.R. program and put politics aside and put the kids first. Mr. Rodriguez wished all the teachers a happy Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the most important people in our district who have face to face contact with our students.

Mr. Monteiro thanked all the teachers in appreciation for all the hard work they do day in and day out for this district helping to make us the Number One School District in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Monteiro wished a warm, wonderful, happy Mother's Day to all the mothers at home and here tonight for all that they do and hold a special place in the hearts of their sons and daughters.

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mr. Perreira, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

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