

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 9, 2013
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on May 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at the George Washington School No. 1, 250 Broadway, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Mr. Monteiro welcomed everyone to George Washington School No. 1 and thanked Principal Anthony Ziobro, Vice Principals Melissa Espana-Rodriguez and Maria Alvarez, and the staff for allowing us to have our meeting here. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have taken the initiative 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 7:35 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 3, 2013. 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 9, 2013 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, Padlo, Perreira
(arr. 7:45 p.m.), Monteiro – 7

Absent: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Associate Counsel Marvin Lehman and members of the public were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Pastor Jean Feder St. Juiste of Haitian Bethany Baptist Church.

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 Breanna Seabrook, eighth grade student at George Washington School No. 1.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students in the George Washington School No. 1 Chorus.

The Haitian National Anthem was performed by Ivana Romulus, student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Quayinah Abreu, eighth grade student at George Washington School No. 1.

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

Mr. Monteiro stated that this is what we consider to be the favorite part of our meeting, the performances of our young talented students from throughout our district and tonight we have performances by the students from George Washington School No. 1 and Benjamin Franklin School No. 13. Mr. Monteiro stated that we also are recognizing the students, staff, and parents for all the hard work and recognition that you deserve for helping to make us the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey.

Ms. Bathelus introduced students in the George Washington School No. 1 bilingual class who performed a dance to *Mi Tierra* by Gloria Estefan. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Kwao Taylor, physical education teacher at George Washington School No. 1, who performed *I Believe I Can Fly* by R. Kelly on the violin. Ms. Bathelus thanked Kwao Taylor for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced students in the Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 Chorus who performed *Home* by Drew Pearson and Greg Holden. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced fifth through eighth grade students from George Washington School No. 1 who performed a drum routine. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Quayinah Abreu, eighth grade student from George Washington School No. 1 who recited an original poem she wrote. Ms. Bathelus thanked Quayinah Abreu for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced self-taught pianist Jaquan Mials, eighth grade student from George Washington School No. 1 who performed *The Entertainer* by Scott Joplin. Ms. Bathelus thanked Jaquan Mials for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus recognized Roselle Board of Education President Donna Obe and Roselle Council President Yves Aubourg who were in attendance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced students from Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 who performed a Haitian folk dance. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus recognized former Board member Michaelle Aristote who was in attendance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced Fritzmane Davilma, seventh grade student at Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 who recited a Haitian poem. Ms. Bathelus thanked Fritzmane Davilma for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus introduced students from Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy who performed a Haitian dance. Ms. Bathelus thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Ms. Bathelus gave a message to the community as a whole that Haiti is a strong believer that unity is strength and Haiti's motto "l'union fait la force" is used to signify the strength in uniting for the common good of the people. Ms. Bathelus stated that as a Haitian leader she wants all mankind to unite by committing to support and encourage others to do the same.

Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for being here tonight and introduced Superintendent Pablo Muñoz and the Board members including Vice President Elcy Castillo-Ospina, Fernando Nazco, Charlene Bathelus, Paul Perreira, Anthony Padlo, and Francisco González. Mr. Monteiro stated that last month we had a visitor from the Hillside School Board and tonight we have the Roselle School Board President Donna Obe with us.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we are proud of our students in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that he was born and raised just two blocks from here and as Elizabeth kids we weren't supposed to succeed and we weren't supposed to be successful. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are successful and we are the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and to never let anyone tell you that you can't be anything you want to be. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are so proud and that is why we take the time at these meetings to have these performances. Mr. Monteiro stated that we also take the time to recognize our students, our scholars, our athletes, our staff and most importantly our parents. Mr. Monteiro stated that to make this district Number One it is going to take everyone, it is going to take a village. Mr. Monteiro stated that one day in the near future we are going to be so proud when we take down the banners that say the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and replace them with the Number One School District in America.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz proudly announced that today Newsweek, a national news magazine published online and in printed press, published its 2013 Best High Schools rankings highlighting the best 2,000 public high schools in the United States of America which are the high schools that are proven to be the most effective in turning out college ready graduates. Mr. Muñoz stated that there are over 22,000 public high schools in the United States of America and he is very proud to announce that Newsweek ranked two Elizabeth high schools as two of the best high schools in all of America. Mr. Muñoz stated that Elizabeth High School is ranked No. 320 and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy is ranked No. 1,436 and are two of the best high schools in all of America. Mr. Muñoz congratulated Elizabeth High School's and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy's leadership, team members, and especially the students for an outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Pablo Muñoz for that great news and stated that it is just a start and we are on our way to becoming the Number One School District in America and we are going to do that with all of your help.

Mr. Monteiro recognized the students who participated in the 2013 Special Olympics and their coaches and volunteers who helped them train. Mr. Monteiro stated that these students trained very hard for eight weeks in skills and stamina and participated in the Track and Field Events with each student earning a medal.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina introduced the 2013 Special Olympics students including David Soulouque and Dianna Vicente, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Madelin Martinez, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Diogo Cunha, Jonathan Pereira, Christopher Vallejo, and Vanessa Vallejo, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Edwin Velasquez, Elmora School No. 12; Elianny Duran and Alexis Ventura, Madison Monroe School No. 16; Justin Almanazar and Rhazeem Williams, John Marshall School No. 20; Billy Sanchez, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; and Shantel Wilkins, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy; coaches Wendy Lopez-Silva, Anthony Mendes, and Giovanni Silva; and volunteers Sylvia Muniz, Melissa Grau, and Anita Negron. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated the students, coaches, and volunteers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized students from George Washington School No. 1 for Student Excellence who have made the effort to be in school every day and have perfect attendance.

Mr. Padlo introduced the Perfect Attendance students including Leonardo Antxane, Franklin Arguea, Jaslet Argueta-Rodriguez, Danny Argueta, Wilber Bonilla, Alan Cajamarca, Genesis Cartagena, Maryoris Castillo, Giovanni Consuegra, Kayla Consuegra, Eduardo Hernandez, Breanna Jones, Rosa Jones, Jeriahma Lomax-McIndoe, Giovanni Martinez, Leonardo Martinez, Rosa Martinez, Stephanie Mendonca, Eric Miranda, Leeasia Parrott, Elijah Ramirez, Jimmy Ramirez, Sierra Ramirez, Magdalene Ramos, Shakira Raurau, Teddy Rivero, Eva Suarez, and Emely Torres. Mr. Padlo and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized Student Ambassadors at Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 for Student Excellence who are called upon to assist during special events to motivate their classmates and are leaders and role models of their class, their grade and their school.

Yalitza Torres, Principal of Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, introduced the following Student Ambassadors Geoffroy Amouzou, Ashley Aracena, Stephen Ash, Michael Atencia, John Azevedo, Martinho Codo, Carlos Contreras, Cherly Contreras, Yngrid DeLosSantos, David Fonseca, Victor Guzman, Carolina Herrera, Diana Lovato, David Marston, Irene Migosi, Sami Juarez, Pamela Nieves-Smith, Michael Ortiz, David Santos, and Alaceyia Smith.

Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized staff members from George Washington School No. 1 who were nominated for Union County Teacher of the Year for their outstanding efforts in educating the children of George Washington School No. 1 including Tiffany Cassese, Leydis Leyva, Allison Mednick and Debra Pugh. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized staff members from George Washington School No. 1 for their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence and to their dedication to the students including teachers Traci Barnes, Oneida Braithwaite, Sabrina Burnett-Williams, Karema Cunningham, Tanya Gilliam, Andrew Kaplan, Patricia Kennedy, Jasmine Lee, Amy Liebowitz, , John Mahon, Vincenzo Mascolo, Benedetta Mosby, Mary O'Hea, Letty Perry, Patricia Pesoli, Deborah Pugh, Kate Rush, Kathy Santor, Mark Shober, Kwao Taylor, Tracy Thompson, Julie Unger, Ximena Vanegas, Kathy Ventura, and Lindsay Walker; math coach Wayne Danodi; language arts coach Lauren Gareis; master teacher Cartayh Hawkins-Reid; guidance counselors Maria Cabrera and Ann Shpakow; social worker Kenyetta Jackson; assistants Karen Boone, Rosangel Martinez, and

Marilyn Portela; head secretary Natalie Fernandez, and secretaries Lirida Hegge and Stephanie Gonzalez. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the staff members and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized team members from George Washington School No. 1 who contribute to the excellent educational services provided to the students including cook manager Beata Backiel and the food service staff, head custodian Ken Sugzda and the custodial staff, and head security guard Larry Meadows and the security staff. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated them and presented Beata Backiel, Ken Sugzda, and Larry Meadows with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized staff members from Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 for going above and beyond the classroom giving up their time afterschool and on weekends spearheading a committee, program, club, or organization. Mr. Monteiro introduced teachers Alison Brennan, Sarah Brown, Dara Buchta, Chrissy Correia, Nancy Carrero-Munoz, Lara Filippello, Barbara Hanley, Vivian Martinez, Doris Matute, Kerilyn Lowe, and Romeo Simoes; physical education teacher Lacey McConkey; art teacher Christina Rios; music teacher Nicole Pepe; librarian Maryann Davies; computer literacy teacher Vanessa Nieves; assistant Carla Twyne; parent liaison Martha Goni; head secretary Giocamina Magliano; custodian Joseph Kwiatek; and security guard Michele Pridgen. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the staff members and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized parents of Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 for Community Excellence for volunteering their time and giving support to school events during and after school including Zoobi Afshan, Jacqueline Atencia, Elain Cabbell, Rosania Freitas, Ileana Medina, Alyssa Montesino, Sofia Horta, Margaret Melendez, Jessica Lopez, Liliana Pacheco, Samidia Pagan, and Douglas Teartt. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated the parents and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Nazco recognized the schools that went above and beyond in their beautiful displays in the Excellence Parade. Mr. Nazco stated that awards are given in three areas including the Keys to Excellence Award for the school that best exemplifies the district's mission, vision, core beliefs and commitments and pledge of ethics, the Leap Spirit Award for the school that best exemplifies the spirit of their school, and the Imagineer Award for the school that demonstrates the most creativity in their design. Mr. Nazco stated that the two winners for the Keys to Excellence Award are Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31 and William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 and honorable mention for Elmora School No. 12 and Elizabeth High School. Mr. Nazco stated that the two winners for the Leap Spirit Award are Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and honorable mention for Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51 and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28. Mr. Nazco stated that the two winners for the Imagineer Award are Robert Morris School No. 18 and Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 and honorable mention for Abraham Lincoln School No. 14, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated them and presented each school principal with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of the highlights of the Excellence Parade.

Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education for coming this evening and participating. Mr. Monteiro encouraged everyone to attend and participate more often in the monthly meetings and stated that we are taking the Board meetings throughout the district. Mr. Monteiro stated that they are very proud of the hard work of the staff,

students, and parents to make us the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey and now we are on our way to becoming the Number One School District in America

Mr. 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 upon the first public participant, Donna Obe, to address the Board.

Donna Obe, President of the Roselle Board of Education, stated that she is running for State Senate and commended the district and the Board of Education for their true inspiration. Ms. Obe stated that the Excellence Parade is a total expression of school pride and the surrounding communities are proud of the district's performance and achievement and are showing the entire State of New Jersey how it is done.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Medeiros, to address the Board.

Maria Medeiros, 161 Livingston Street, made opposing comments about the Board members.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Julian Acebo, to address the Board.

Julian Acebo, 716 Adams Avenue, stated that his children attend the Elizabeth Public Schools and he is very happy with the education in the district and the Excellence Parade was a great success.

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

Maria Echavarria, 321 Westfield Avenue, stated that her daughter is having problems in school and her son is having problems in an out-of-district school.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Guiliano Farina, to address the Board.

Guiliano Farina, teacher at Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, congratulated everyone on the Excellence Parade and stated that the children are excited and can't wait for next year's parade.

Mr. Monteiro thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, James Mondesir, to address the Board.

James Mondesir, Vice Principal of Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, thanked Superintendent Muñoz and the Board of Education for their leadership and stated that the Excellence Parade was very successful.

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

Ms. Bathelus recognized Councilman Carlos Torres who was in attendance. Ms. Bathelus stated that not all Board members should be piled into one group. Ms. Bathelus thanked Mr. Mondesir for helping put the performances together and stated that good things do happen here. Ms. Bathelus stated that Khaseem Greene was signed by the Bears and Ray Graham was signed by the Texans and we are proud of them.

Mr. Perreira thanked the community, staff, and parents for attending and stated that the parade was a great event. Mr. Perreira stated that it is great to see the kids happy and experience a sense of pride, and to be part of the school's identity and not just attend a school building.

Mr. González stated that he has been on the Board for eight years and he is proud of the children and staff. Mr. González congratulated the children and staff for their hard work for the Excellence Parade and stated that the Board members are here for the children and he is extremely proud to be part of this Board and thanked everyone for supporting them.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that it is a privilege to sit on this Board and she is proud to be part of this Board and they are here for the children. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she hasn't seen any other district moving forward like Elizabeth and to just look at the results.

Mr. Monteiro stated that you can't take away the pride and you can never erase the smiles of all the children participating in tonight's performances and recognitions. Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for coming tonight.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2013 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2013

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, 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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

Ms. Bathelus asked what we are voting for and if all the extra tabs are included.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz explained that the Personnel Report includes approving the contracts for certificated personnel and non-certificated personnel.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco (abstain- M.S., D.M., S.G., M.F., O.F., D.M., S.C.), Padlo (abstain- J.P., L.C., L.M., L.D.), Perreira (abstain- M.P., D.M., M.R., M.L., O.C., M.B., C.C., G.D., L.C., M.S., J.L., C.S.), Monteiro (abstain- N.G.) – 7

Negative: None

Tuition Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. González, 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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated that the Middle States Association has been conducting accreditation reviews of our six high schools over the past two school years. Mr. Muñoz stated that both Elizabeth High School and Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy received accreditation from the Middle States Association. Mr. Muñoz stated that John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy have all undergone Middle States Association accreditation review and all three of the high schools have been recommended for accreditation. Mr. Muñoz stated that this past week Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy had its visit by the Middle States Association and they will also be recommending accreditation status for Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy. Mr. Muñoz stated that he is happy to report that all six of our high schools have gone through a rigorous assessment by a renowned Middle States Association and will be accrediting all six of our high schools. Mr. Muñoz thanked the Board members that made this possible especially those that attended the sessions with the Middle States Association monitoring teams. Mr. Muñoz thanked the principals and their staff at the schools for working hard to make this happen and spearheading from central office some directors and supervisors led by Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett. Mr. Muñoz congratulated them and thanked them all for their hard work and stated that it is not easy to get accreditation status and all six of our high schools have and this is a first because prior to this we only had one high school and this time we had to go through this accreditation review six times.

Mr. Muñoz stated that the U.S. News and World Report, a national/international publication, publishes the Best High School Rankings identifying the country's top performing public high schools with the goal to provide a clear unbiased picture of how well public schools serve all of their students from the highest achieving to the lowest achieving in preparing them to demonstrate proficiency in basic skills as well as readiness for college level work. Mr. Muñoz stated that the first ever list of the U.S. News and World Report Best High Schools was posted online on November 30, 2007 and the current 2013 edition was published online on April 23, 2013. Mr. Muñoz stated that all public high schools were eligible and nearly all were evaluated in the process of calculating the rankings. Mr. Muñoz stated that U.S. News and World Report Best High Schools methodology collected state test data from state department of educations, U.S. News and World Report analyzed more than 21,000 public high schools in 49 states and the District of Columbia, and ranked schools within each state and nationally. Mr. Muñoz stated that in the national rankings 500 schools earned gold medals, 1,790 earned silver medals, and 2,515 earned bronze medals. Mr. Muñoz stated that he is pleased to inform everyone that two Elizabeth Board of Education high schools received Best High School Ranking and medals. Mr. Muñoz stated that Elizabeth High School was ranked No. 10 in New Jersey, No. 183 in the United States of America, received the highest medal which is gold and is ranked in the top 2% of all American public high schools. Mr. Muñoz stated that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked No. 42 in New Jersey, No. 958 in the United States of America, received silver medal status and is ranked in the top 9% of all American public high schools. Mr. Muñoz congratulated the Elizabeth Board of Education, team members, students, and the leadership at both Elizabeth High School and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy.

Mr. Muñoz stated that earlier this evening he announced that Newsweek published its 2013 Best High Schools rankings today and ranked both Elizabeth High School and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy as two of the best high schools in all of America, two of the 2,000 Best High Schools in all of America and congratulated both of the schools.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Muñoz for his report.

Mr. González stated that it was a privilege for him to be part of four of the six Middle States Accreditation visits and was extremely proud of the preparation by the principals and staff and the volumes of data presented to show the Middle States Accreditation that they indeed meet the twelve different requirements in order to accredit each high school. Mr. González stated that it is a tremendous accomplishment for our district to have 6 high schools all go through this tedious, data-driven accreditation process and come out with two officially and four others recommended for accreditation and congratulated Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett. Mr. González stated that he is extremely proud of our high schools and this is something that we put on our diplomas that we are accredited by the Middle States and that carries weight when our students apply for college. Mr. González stated that it is a tremendous honor to be able to do this and a great accomplishment and a testament to what we are doing in this district. Mr. González stated that we need to celebrate our high schools for this great accomplishment.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. González commented that we are approving the District's Three Year Technology Plan and he is very impressed with the plan that has been set for the next three years and commended Alberto Marsal, Coordinator of Network and Computer Services, and his staff. Mr. González stated that seeing the equipment that we have, the way it is set up and how we are moving forward is impressive. Mr. González stated that our children are being offered top notch technology that best colleges in the country have and we have it here in Elizabeth and commended the Technology Department.

Ms. Bathelus stated that there is a recommendation for the Hispanic Youth Research & Leadership Program and asked if this is an inclusive program for all nationalities.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer explained that this particular program is for Hispanic youth but we are always seeking opportunities for all our students.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Padlo, 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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Special Education Tuition Contract for 2013-2014

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, 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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Portugal Day

Mr. Monteiro read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – National Teacher Appreciation Week

Mr. Padlo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Padlo, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

Ms. Bathelus read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Cuban American Day

Mr. Nazco read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, 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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Special Education Week

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Paid Administrative Leave effective April 30, 2013 – K.N.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Increment and Salary Adjustment Withholding for 2013-2014

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Recall List in Accordance with the 2013-2014 Reduction in Force

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Termination of Registered Nurses effective June 1, 2013

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. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Dream Act

Mr. González read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. González, 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, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. González requested a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor and City Council, Governor, State Legislators, State Senators, and U.S. Congressmen. Mr. González stated that the Dream Act is a very dear initiative close to his heart and he was blessed to be able help out with a deferred action application process for a lot of undocumented youth to give an opportunity to get a social security number and have some status. Mr. González stated that many of the youth he helped out were Elizabeth High School graduates and he is proud that our students want to go further and go to college. Mr. González stated that it is a shame that our undocumented students graduate from high school and cannot get in-state tuition because they don't have legal status. Mr. González stated that he has supported this in the past and will continue to support this and wants Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform so a lot of our students and parents are able to enjoy our freedoms. Mr. González stated that he wants to send a loud and clear message to Congress that we want the reform and the Dream Act to take place to benefit our children. Mr. González stated that we are here for the children.

Mr. Monteiro requested that a copy of the resolution be sent to Elizabeth City Council and we certainly encourage that they enact the same resolution as a unified front in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro requested that a copy of the resolution also be sent to our congressional delegation.

Mr. Monteiro requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, B.B-P., and M.L.; and Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Padlo, to go into private session at 11:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Nazco, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Nazco excused himself from the meeting at 11:01 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 11:55 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Mr. Monteiro amended the private session statement to include the Hamilton student incident.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, 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, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Board Counsel – Marvin Lehman

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 6

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.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we still have a vacancy on the Elizabeth Board of Education and yesterday was the deadline for interested candidates to submit their letter of interest. Mr. Monteiro stated that the application period will be extended until May 29, 2013 for anyone interested in serving on the Elizabeth Board of Education. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Monteiro read a letter from Frank Mazza, teacher and City Councilmember.

Mr. Monteiro spoke about a matter of concern that happened about two weeks ago regarding students who may or may not have been working for campaigns. Mr. Monteiro stated that one of the things he read in the newspaper and expressed concern about is in regard to whether some of the students were under the age of eighteen and getting paid. Mr. Monteiro stated that if someone is under the age of eighteen and getting paid there have to be working papers filled out and submitted.

Superintendent Muñoz responded that during our research there were fifteen students who indicated that they participated in the campaign process and not doing it as volunteer and not doing it as community service for credit hours for graduation but in fact that the campaign was paying them. Mr. Muñoz stated that as a result of that the principal checked the ages of the students and found that eight were under the age of eighteen and required working papers. Mr. Muñoz stated that the district generated a letter that was sent from the principals of the six high schools to all parents of our 5,000 plus high school students and the same letter was given to the 5,000 plus students attending our high schools outlining the rules governed by the Department of Labor and the Department of Education for minors, students under eighteen, and the requirements of working papers and where they can go on the website to find information. Mr. Muñoz stated that of the kids who said they participated in this and were getting paid and were minors none of them indicated to us that they had working papers in that process.

Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Kennedy if we as a Board can send this to the Department of Labor to inquire further regarding working papers and how it may affect the Elizabeth Board of Education or not.

Mr. Kennedy responded that he will discuss with Board Counsel about the proper way to effectuate the request.

Mr. Perreira stated that he doesn't knock students trying to go out and seek work and he knows how tough it can be sometimes when you don't have the financial means to do some of the things that your peers want to do and you find and seek ways to make an income for yourself and he applauds any kids that are trying to further themselves financially or sustain themselves or they are trying to help the process and do something for their community. Mr. Perreira stated that when he received a visit at his house regarding a campaign notice it happened to be a student of our Upper Academy who told him personally that he was not getting paid and said he was doing it for the community service hours that he needed toward his graduation. Mr. Perreira stated that two things came to mind and first and foremost safety is one of the things that is important because he has campaigned himself and he has knocked on doors where some odd characters opened the door and he doesn't know if that is a place where he would want his son or daughter to encounter themselves by walking by themselves knocking on anybody's door no matter what it is for. Mr. Perreira stated that if it is being done for community service hours he has read across districts not only in the state but in the country that generally community service hours should be earned doing something for the community, helping a soup kitchen, helping clean the streets, helping the elderly or doing something more conducive to problems and troubles that the community has. Mr. Perreira stated that those are the two reasons why he took it upon himself to make sure the district was aware of what he encountered and he didn't know if it was a rampant thing.

Mr. Muñoz stated that as part of our review we checked to see if any kids had submitted community service hour documents indicating that they wanted credit for partisan political activity and distribution and no one had submitted anything and neither had any school awarded any credit. Mr. Muñoz stated that we also sent home a letter to all the parents at the high school level and gave a copy to the students as well indicating and reminding them that community service is part of our graduation policy and they are not going to get credit for political partisan distribution of material pursuant to one of our policies and it is also a state statute that prohibits us using students to do that type of activity. Mr. Muñoz stated that we also referenced the policy that the Board has that prohibits school activities being of the nature that they solicit door to door and we reminded the parents of that and informed them of what the community service hours are, how much they have to get by the time they graduate, and what type of activities are not allowable and things that we explicitly prohibit our students from doing.

Mr. Monteiro stated that for a point of record it was disturbing on a lot of levels because it was reported in the media by Senator Lesniak that we, the Board, or him by himself had taken it upon themselves to speak to students who may have been engaged in this activity. Mr. Monteiro stated that he wants to clarify this, that Mr. Perreira was visited at his home by a young student who shared with Mr. Perreira that he was possibly doing community service hours and Mr. Perreira called Mr. Monteiro and asked if that was the case and if the schools offered that. Mr. Monteiro stated that he called Superintendent Muñoz and asked if that was allowed and the Superintendent responded that would not be allowed for partisan election to be campaigning on the streets and an investigation ensued. Mr. Monteiro stated that Senator Lesniak was wrong on many levels and it was disturbing to him, politics aside, because he had already seen many students days before Mr. Perreira called knocking on doors and it is their civic right and their constitutional right to do that. Mr. Monteiro stated that he received many calls from many parents throughout the week that children in school uniforms were passing out Senator Lesniak's campaign propaganda and wanted to know if this was a school initiative or if the schools were in any way responsible or part of this and he told them that it was students on their own time. Mr. Monteiro stated that what is more disturbing to him as an elected official and as a lifelong resident of the City of Elizabeth is what just happened in Cleveland and when you go into large

neighborhoods like the ones we live in here in the City of Elizabeth, the fourth largest city in the state, you have a lot of registered voters but you also have a lot of interesting characters, too and some not so nice. Mr. Monteiro stated that when you come up to a strange house and a multi-family dwelling some with 7, 8 or 9 families and you're looking for that one registered voter but in that same apartment building can be a registered sex offender or disturbed individuals like the one they just found in Cleveland. Mr. Monteiro stated that when you have these young students come to these houses unsupervised in the early hours of the evening as he saw happen and so did many parents, politics aside, it is just disturbing on many levels because these are young students. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Perreira for bringing this to our attention. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is shameful of Senator Lesniak for even alleging or insinuating that this Board would intimidate or harass students because this Board cares about their safety and their well-being whether they are in school or in our neighborhoods.

Mr. Muñoz stated that the principal spoke to a number of parents and some of the parents said they were told that their child did not need working papers and in some instances the parents said the parents did not realize they needed working papers. Mr. Muñoz said that all of the parents who were spoken to were happy to hear from the principal and understood that the principal was deeply concerned for their child especially when we talked to them about the Board policy about the prohibition of solicitation door to door and the reason we have that policy is because we are concerned about the potential dangers that our kids may interact with when they are out going door to door on their own without adult supervision. Mr. Muñoz stated that the parents that spoke with our principal were happy to hear from us, happy that we were concerned about their safety and happy that we were informing them if they had minors of the proper labor laws that should be adhered to and the people that mattered in this case, our students and our parents, were happy to hear from us.

Mr. Monteiro commended the principal and vice principal who handled the matter professionally and with great sensitivity. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is unfortunate that Senator Lesniak would attempt to drag them into his muck and harm their reputations and good names and it was just sad. Mr. Monteiro stated that on behalf of the Board he wants to apologize to the principal and vice principal because it will never be the intention of this Board to do any such thing that the Senator alleged.

On a motion by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Padlo, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Padlo, Perreira, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

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