

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

June 13, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on June 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following statement at 6:17 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular agenda meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on June 7, 2019. In addition, this notice is posted in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.”

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this June 13, 2019 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

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

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

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (arr. 7:00 p.m.), Mr. Neron (arr. 6:44 p.m.), Mrs. Pestana – 7

Absent: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Hernandez – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenio, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and members of the public were in attendance.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Pledge of Ethics

Mrs. Pestana introduced a video presentation of the President’s Tour.

Mrs. Pestana stated that she has been visiting our district schools as part of the President's Tour to meet the members of our learning communities and witness the great work they are doing in their classrooms. Mrs. Pestana stated that she was fortunate enough to meet our student excellence honorees for this evening during the visits she has made so far this year. Mrs. Pestana stated that while visiting each school she wanted to have the opportunity to recognize a student for their unique contributions to their school. Mrs. Pestana stated that the students being honored were selected by their principal for being one of a kind in characteristics such as going above and beyond, helping others, being a positive role model, performing at a high level, or making impactful contributions to their learning community. Mrs. Pestana introduced a video presentation of the exceptional students who have been recognized as Stephanie's Stars. Mrs. Pestana recognized Alice Peris, George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1; Frandelys Garcia, Winfield Scott School No. 2; Annie Fernandez, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Maria Guartazaca, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Keisean Bracy, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; Camila Conza, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Justin Harris, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Alexandra Koon, iPrep Academy School No. 8; Edward Tejada, Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and Art School No. 9; Ethan Lopez, Elmora School No. 12; Joshua Pagan, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Jeanelise DeJesus, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Katherine Gomez, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Sienna DePalma, Madison Monroe School No. 16; Cynthia Boakye, Robert Morris School No. 18; Matthew Quinones, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Samiah Eleazer, John Marshall School No. 20; Ariana Garcia, Victor Mravlag School No. 21; Gerald Pineda, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51; and Giulianna Brito, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 52. Mrs. Pestana and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized the members of the Elizabeth Bilingual Education Parent Advisory Committee (BEPAC). Mrs. Carvalho stated that the BEPAC consists of various stakeholders in the EPS Bilingual/ESL community and the committee members are composed of parents, teachers, guidance counselors, administrators, and community members. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the purpose of BEPAC is to discuss the various aspects of supporting the academic and social/emotional needs of English language learners and their families. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the BEPAC committee meets four times per year during which they have planned workshops about internet safety, PowerSchool access, assessments/benchmarks, transitioning from eighth grade to high school, available community resources, and most recently the benefits of bilingual/ESL education and using the updated bilingual/ESL website as a resource. Mrs. Carvalho introduced the members of the BEPAC committee including Helizhabeth Cabrera, bilingual psychologist and BEPAC Coordinator; Dr. Gilda DelRisco, Community Partner from Kean University; Susy Perez, parent; Theresa Perez, ESL teacher; Marie Sajous, bilingual teacher; Jessyca Villareal, bilingual social studies teacher and parent; Marysella Mularz, guidance counselor and parent; Rebecca Orellana, bilingual and ESL supervisor; Ileana Mena, world language supervisor; and Sandra Nunes, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Barbosa recognized the members of the Elizabeth Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC). Mrs. Barbosa stated that SEPAC is a parent committee which met monthly this year with parents of special needs students and brought many workshops to our district from bullying to how to advocate for their children. Mrs. Barbosa stated that SEPAC has made a great contribution in bringing information to our families of students with special needs. Mrs. Barbosa introduced the SEPAC committee members including Michelle Santos, president; Mariver Arcure, vice president; Leanna Villavicencio, secretary; Mariluz Maldonado, communications/outreach; Ana Bermeo, communications/outreach; and Maria Echavarria, policy and programing. Mrs. Barbosa and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Barbosa recognized Ismael Rosado for his eighteen years of dedicated service as a custodian for the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Barbosa stated that he is a shining example of endurance and the human spirit who has not allowed age to stand in his way of demonstrating tremendous commitment to his work over the years. Mrs. Barbosa and Board members congratulated Ismael Rosado and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Jacobs recognized the Rotary Club of Elizabeth for more than 100 years of admirable contributions to the greater Elizabeth community. Mr. Jacobs stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools has been the recipient of the vast generosity of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth and its members. Mr. Jacobs stated that their dictionary project has provided third grade students with dictionaries with the goal of assisting them in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners. Mr. Jacobs stated that the Rotary Club has supported hundreds of our students in achieving their dreams of attending college through the establishment of the Davis Scholarship Fund which has awarded \$608,000. to 383 students since 1986. Mr. Jacobs introduced representatives of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated them and presented them with a certificate of commemoration.

Rotary Club of Elizabeth representative thanked the Board for the honor. The Rotary Club of Elizabeth honored Marsha Henkel, teacher at Elmora School No. 12 as the Educator of the Year and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Pestana stated that as part of the district's core beliefs, the Elizabeth Public Schools believes that parents and caregivers are both valued partners and active participants in their children's learning. Mrs. Pestana stated that tonight we are recognizing parents who have played an active role in the learning and academic success of the Elizabeth Public Schools children, their commitment to education, and for serving as important partners to their respective school communities.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced the parents including Salahuddin Raheem, George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1; Michelle Corniel, Winfield Scott School No. 2; Hector Porto, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; Marjorie Delgado, Joseph Battin School No. 4; Erica Williams, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; Olephia Williams, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; Suzette Negron, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; Sandra Cordovi, iPrep Academy School No. 8; Mylene Pazmino, Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9; Maira Acderman, Elmora School No. 12; Kerilyn Saltarelli, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; Donna McDonald, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; Martha Ceden, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; Andrea Rios-Cardona, Madison Monroe School No. 16; Alex and Dina Echevarria, Robert Morris School No. 18; Clemencia Mateus, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; Shakemiah Norville, John Marshall School No. 20; Holly Sepulveda, Victor Mravlag School No. 21; Jennifer Perez, William F. Halloran School No. 22; Loretta Stevens, Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23; Elda Camara, School No. 25; Rosana Oliveira, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; Diana Garcia, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; Crystal Paz, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; Sandra Cordovi, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; Awilda Hernandez, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30; Hellenha Cabrera, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50; Melissa Llano, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51; Yenys Aguilar, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 52; Sima Farid, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; Eddy Coello, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; Marisol Valencia, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy; Margarita Matos, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy; Michelle Velez-Jonte, Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy; and Krista Ramirez, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer and Board members congratulated the parents and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Pestana called for a short recess at 7:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Pestana stated that on behalf of the Elizabeth Board of Education that she is pleased to announce that through their work with the Elizabeth Education Association we were able to negotiate a contract that is a win-win-win for the EEA members, the Elizabeth Public Schools, and the community it serves. Mrs. Pestana stated that the Board and the EEA have been meeting over the past several months to negotiate the terms of a three-year contract. Mrs. Pestana stated that with the ratification of the contract by members of the EEA, they are pleased to see that the EEA membership had an overwhelmingly positive view of the negotiated terms based on the voting results. Mrs. Pestana thanked the members of the EEA negotiation team for their steadfast commitment to working with us to arrive at this moment. Mrs. Pestana stated that negotiating contracts is an arduous task that requires multiple sides willing to work together for the best interests of all involved while attending to our primary objective of serving the children of Elizabeth. Mrs. Pestana acknowledged EEA President Joe Cortico for his admirable service to the Elizabeth Public Schools and the EEA including one last time during negotiations of this new contract. Mrs. Pestana thanked her colleagues on the Board for the time they dedicate to serving the Elizabeth community and working tirelessly to ensure the provisions of this contract. Mrs. Pestana stated as a Board we are proud to have reached agreement on this contract that rewards our team members who ensure every child achieves excellence as well as rewards the Elizabeth community with a school district that continues to be efficiently operated while providing a high quality education for its children. Mrs. Pestana stated that let's continue to achieve excellence together.

Mrs. Pestana introduced a video of the 2018-2019 Elizabeth Public Schools Year in Review.

Board President Goncalves presented the following public participation statement.

"At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the board in public, not a meeting of the public."

Mrs. Pestana called upon the first public participant, Edison Berrio, to address the board.

Edison Berrio, guidance counselor, thanked the past and present board members for giving him an opportunity to work with children. Mr. Berrio asked the board members to consider passing a resolution in support of the State of New Jersey senate bills that would require the health curriculum to include instruction on mental health.

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

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special education and SEPAC.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that the SEPAC information on the website is managed by the parents and is not managed by the district.

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

Danielle Fienberg, 631 North Broad Street, spoke about the quality of the water and asked about the records for maintenance on the filters and how the water is monitored now.

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

Celia Nunez, 231 S. Second Street, stated that her child is in special education and spoke about the IEP.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Celia Nunez to give her information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes.

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

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, stated that she sent an email about the lunch problem and has not received a response. Mrs. Moreira spoke about her son and stated that there are many parents that need help and the district is refusing to have children tested.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested that she meet with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno regarding her son. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a response was sent to her regarding lunch. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with regard to the post on social media there are also various choices.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt stated that we serve fresh vegetables and fresh fruit in addition to what was posted on social media.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Board members went to school sites with Mr. Cuesta and Mr. Kennedy to experience the lunch options.

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

Araceli Espejel, 240 Palmer Street, spoke about the problems with her special needs child and asked why elections are not held for SEPAC.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Araceli Esperel to give her information about her son to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Amanda Bem.

Amanda Bem, 149 Clark Place, stated that her son has had many substitute teachers and spoke about the problems in the classroom.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Amanda Bem meet with Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson.

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

Loretta Stevens, 543 Riverside Drive, stated that she is a resident and community activist and that the Islamic community is offended by not having their holidays off from school.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Loretta Stevens meet with Director of Staff Development Kathleen Badalis to provide more information.

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

Kason Little, student, spoke about being harassed and intimidated.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all students are held to the same standard and all students are held to the code of student conduct.

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

Maria Echavarria, 321 Westfield Avenue, spoke about SEPAC and special needs and stated that there needs to be a transition plan for special education and life skills for our children.

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

Mrs. Pestana introduced Director of Transportation Mike Rijo to present information on the Transportation Department.

Director of Transportation Mike Rijo stated that the transportation department has a total of 43 buses including 38 54-passenger school buses, 2 20-passenger short buses, and 3 wheel chair buses. Mr. Rijo stated that each bus is inspected twice a year by the state and preventative maintenance is performed three times a year on each bus. Mr. Rijo stated that each bus is equipped with a GPS tracking unit, cameras, student safety check systems, and two-way communication digital radios. Mr. Rijo stated that 30 buses are equipped with air conditioning, and 20 new buses are equipped with front and back student sensors. Mr. Rijo stated that before every trip our drivers perform a safety pre-trip inspection of the bus, the buses are cleaned daily inside and out (weather permitting), and a team of bus drivers keeps an eye on fluids and any minor repairs needed. Mr. Rijo stated that the Elizabeth School bus routes can be identified by the route number visible on a sign on the window, a mirror grid painted on the floor to help bus drivers adjust their mirrors, maintenance records are kept on each vehicle for the lifetime of the bus, and each bus undergoes preventative maintenance every quarter. Mr. Rijo stated that 20 new buses have been purchased and we have cycled through 50% of our fleet. Mr. Rijo stated that the new buses are equipped with 4 HD interior cameras, an exterior stop sign cam and a dash cam. Mr. Rijo stated that 24 buses are equipped with stop sign cameras that also monitor outside activity. Mr. Rijo stated that child detection sensors are on the front and rear of the buses. Mr. Rijo stated that child check buttons are on the buses that have an alarm that will go off after 1 minute of shutting the bus off if the driver does not physically walk to the back of the bus and press this button. Mr. Rijo stated that the new GPS system shows the location of all vehicles, record of all stops with time stamps, Geo fences and zones, speeding alerts, idling alerts, linked to routing software and routes, push notifications, mobile app tracking, check engine alerts, heavy braking alerts, fleet reports, and fuel reports. Mr. Rijo stated that we have governed our newer school buses not to exceed 65 mph and we have E-ZPass in our buses.

Mr. Rijo stated that we transport students who qualify for transportation including special needs students with no mileage limit, Pre-K students who live more than 1.5 miles from school, courtesy busing for magnet schools for students who live 1.3 miles from school, regular transportation for K-8 students who live more than 2.0 miles from school, and high school students who live more than 2.5 miles from school. Mr. Rijo explained the process for student transportation and stated that the request for student transportation is received, then the student is routed, and the guardian is informed of the transportation arrangements. Mr. Rijo stated that all transportation requests come to the office in the form of a numbered ticket request and the

requests mostly come from the schools and departments such as special services and early childhood. Mr. Rijo stated that the turnaround period for a transportation request to get processed is usually between one to two days. Mr. Rijo explained the software that is used to route students with a pick-up time and a letter is generated and sent to the guardian with student route information, school bus rules, and safety regulations.

Mr. Rijo stated that the routing software provides the drivers with a roster sheet and turn-by-turn directions and there are sharing capabilities to the principals and contractors. Mr. Rijo stated that the routing software makes the routes efficient and provides routes for special needs, curb-to-curb service or corner stops, shuttles for athletics, Saturday programs, integrated routing software with GPS, and uses live data from student information system (PowerSchool). Mr. Rijo stated that the schools have access to route software to look up the student route information, accurate pick-up times, and the student roster for each route. Mr. Rijo stated that the dispatch board is an interactive smart board with live data of all in-district routes, bus assignments, bus drivers, bus aides, and links to the GPS system. Mr. Rijo stated that this board keeps everyone in the office informed and allows us to make the best decisions on substitutions and route adjustments. Mr. Rijo stated that there are 350 total routes and 64 are performed in-house with staggered bell times between the high school and K-8 schools. Mr. Rijo stated that each EPS driver performs two routes daily. Mr. Rijo stated that 286 routes are contracted to vendors including Union County Educational Services Commission, Essex County Educational Services Commission, Morris County Educational Services Commission, Villani Bus Company, Shore Vans, and J&J Transportation. Mr. Rijo stated that we have renewed contractor routes for the past three school years without the state suggested increase.

Mr. Rijo stated that for the 2017-2018 school year, 5,340 students were transported including 1,531 courtesy busing for magnet schools, 2,978 special needs students, 675 PreK students, 61 non-public students, and 95 vocational school students. Mr. Rijo stated that they use a field trip tracking program that is web-based, accessible to everyone in the district, and it has the ability to create reports, scheduling, confirmation emails to the requestor and transportation office, and driver directions. Mr. Rijo stated that the bus transportation for the summer programs for 2018-2019 included a total of 34 routes with 1,034 students, which was all done in-house without contracting any routes. Mr. Rijo stated that they transport the band and the athletics programs including daily athletics, athletic shuttles, and weekend sporting events. Mr. Rijo stated that they do mass transportation events including Healthy Leap, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Union County Teen Arts, and NFL Play 60 and transport over 4,000 students in a safe and timely fashion to and from many locations.

Mr. Rijo stated that safety is a priority and there are school bus emergency evacuation drills performed twice a year on location. Mr. Rijo stated that the Elizabeth Public School bus drivers wear uniforms, are trained yearly on school bus transportation, undergo random alcohol and drug testing, perform daily pre-trip inspections of their buses, and keep updated roster sheets of their routes.

Mr. Rijo stated that the future goals include looking to alternative fuels to lower cost, expanding the department, and a student identification system. Mr. Rijo introduced a video presentation of the transportation department. Mr. Rijo stated that concludes his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if all schools have access to the routes, where should parents call for information, and if someone is in the transportation office until all the buses are done.

Mr. Rijo stated that the schools have access to the bus routes but not the GPS system so the parents should call the transportation department. Mr. Rijo stated that someone is in the office until all the buses return.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the transportation department and stated that it is important to transport our students in a safe way. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is very proud of the bus drivers, secretaries, coordinators, and director of the transportation department and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the transportation department is a family. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we want our children to be safe in school and that is important. Mrs. Barbosa stated that we need our children to be safe on our buses. Mrs. Barbosa stated that, as a mother, she feels safe putting her child on the bus. Mrs. Barbosa congratulated the transportation department.

Mr. Jacobs commended the transportation department and the staff and stated that it is not an easy job because the children are not sitting like they are in the video. Mr. Jacobs stated that the transportation department is very professional. Mr. Jacobs stated that we don't have the stories that you hear about in other districts because of the leadership and how the department is run. Mr. Jacobs thanked them for their service and dedication to our children and our district.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that she wanted to highlight the hours of training the bus drivers receive for the special needs students. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the bus drivers are not just sitting there driving and there is a lot that goes into this. Mrs. Barbosa thanked them for the training and for learning and stated that this department is evolving with all of the new things that are coming out with cameras and all of the training.

Mr. Neron thanked them for representing our City, our children, and being the first line of contact that our students have. Mr. Neron stated that it is about setting the tone for the day and the bus drivers have done that and continue to do that. Mr. Neron stated that we get the reports when things are bad but no one celebrates when you do good and you do good every single day. Mr. Neron stated that we cannot say thank you enough for the work that they do. Mr. Neron stated that he has been to the department and has been on the buses. Mr. Neron stated that they are proud of the organization and the fact that they are well organized and well run. Mr. Neron stated that it is a well-oiled machine and we celebrate the department tonight. Mr. Neron thanked Mr. Rijo for the wonderful presentation and to continue to do the great work that they are doing.

Mrs. Pestana thanked Mr. Rijo for giving us an insight into what they do day in and day out. Mrs. Pestana thanked him for coming and showing us what you do. Mrs. Pestana thanked the transportation staff for being a family and thanked them for being here and for their support. Mrs. Pestana stated that it is not an easy job and it is not an easy department that they run. Mrs. Pestana stated that come September it is not easy and there are little hiccups. Mrs. Pestana stated that here we are in June and it has been a successful year. Mrs. Pestana thanked them for their dedication and for keeping our children safe especially in the bad weather.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Sara Cullinane, Esq., from Make the Road NJ, students, and Supervisor of Guidance Anthony DiDonato to present information on the Student Success Center. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Student Success Center is on our agenda tonight and it is a good opportunity for our Board members to learn more about this opportunity which we will embark on beginning in September.

Sara Cullinane, Esq., thanked the Superintendent and Board for the opportunity to speak along with many of our youth leaders who are college ambassadors. Ms. Cullinane thanked Anthony DiDonato, Supervisor of Guidance, for his support and thanked the district for their partnership with the Student Success Center which is a peer-to-peer led program that we are going to start in the Elizabeth Public Schools in the upcoming year. Ms. Cullinane stated that the goal is to increase college application rates, increase college acceptance rates and to do it by building a college bound culture that is led by young people. Ms. Cullinane introduced two youth leaders who spoke about their experiences as college ambassadors.

Mrs. Pestana thanked them for the information and stated that the authorization for the Student Success Center is on the agenda for tonight.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mrs. Pestana stated that we will go tab by tab and each board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt, Director of Staff Development and Innovative Programs Kathleen Badalis, Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes, Director of Transportation Mike Rijo, and Purchasing Agent Mario Rodrigues. The board reviewed the agenda.

Minutes of the Meetings of May 2 and 9, 2019
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of April 2019
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Personnel Report
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

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

Tuition Report
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.
Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Kennedy requested that this be taken into private session for discussion.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes to provide a summary of the field trips.

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

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

Mrs. Pestana added the Minutes of the Meetings, Secretary/Treasurer's Report, Personnel Report, Tuition Report, Superintendent's Report – Considerations, Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, Superintendent's Report – Field Trips, and Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results to the agenda (without the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities which was held for private session).

Authorizations Report
Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt stated that they are maintaining the current lunch prices for the 2019-2020 school year and the food service calendars coincide with the district calendar.

Mrs. Carvalho asked how that affects their budget.

Ms. Leavitt explained that there is an increase in the federal reimbursement and the contracts will be the same or lower.

Supplemental Authorization Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

The report was held for discussion in private session.

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

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto speak about the contracts related to plant and property.

Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto stated that most of the contracts are for construction this summer including asbestos abatement related to the HVAC upgrades at School Nos. 15 and 16, auditorium renovation at School No. 80, water damage at School No. 13, roof repairs at School No. 15, classroom alterations at School Nos. 9 and 21, and replacement of 3 classroom floors at School Nos. 6 and 23.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt speak about the contracts relating to food service.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt stated that there are five recommendations including delivery of frozen fresh, dry grocery, snacks, and cookie items; food service training program for all cafeteria food service workers; armored car service for food services; processed commodity food items; and chemical cleaning supplies for food services.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there is a recommendation for Prevention Links to conduct a presentation on the dangers of using electronic cigarette devices. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Supervisor of Guidance Anthony DiDonato for coordinating this information and stated that the information will be presented at a town hall meeting on June 19th at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Health and Public Safety Academy.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes speak about the contract with Montclair State University.

Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes stated that the contract with Montclair State University is to enter into a partnership to establish programs that allow individuals to complete various post-baccalaureate programs focused on bilingual preparation.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is excited about the partnership with Montclair State University. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if the contract with Rutgers University for training is for the whole district.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the Rutgers University training sessions for dialectical behavioral therapy are for prekindergarten and the goal right now is preschool.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if the visual designer for the marching band is coming in to work with the band.

Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes responded yes.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Mrs. Pestana asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if the warehouse keeps track of soap and toilet paper.

Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto explained that we use the SchoolDude program to monitor the inventory.

Mrs. Pestana added the Authorizations Report, Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc., Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds, Award of Contracts, Supplemental Award of Contracts, Miscellaneous Communication, and Claims List to the agenda (without the Supplemental Authorizations Report which was held for private session).

Resolution – Colombia’s Independence Day

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Amended Tuition Contract Agreement – Alternative High School 2015-2016 through 2019-2020

Resolution – Appointing Spruce Industries, Inc. to Provide Chemical Cleaning Supplies for Food Services

Resolution – Gun Violence Awareness Month

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Non-Public School Security Aid Program for 2019-2020

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Chapters 192-193 Services for 2019-2020

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Non-Public Technology Initiative Program for 2019-2020

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Non-Public Textbooks for 2019-2020

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission 2019-2020 Professional Services

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission Non-Public Title I Teacher Instructed Services for 2019-2020

Resolution – NJSIAA Membership 2019-2020

Resolution – Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Capital Reserve

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

Mrs. Pestana added the resolutions to the agenda.

Mrs. Pestana thanked the directors for attending tonight.

Board President Stephanie Goncalves requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, interviews; legal matters, specifically, insurance coverage for excess

workers' compensation, liability and property, appointing a managed care organization for workers' compensation, award of contract for US Foods, award of contract for asbestos removal, use of school district facilities, lease-purchase for Trane HVAC; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, J.F., C.P., A.R., and C.F. The board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Neron, to go into private session at 9:11 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa excused herself from the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to reconvene in public session at 11:53 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL Education

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal

Resolution – Appointment of Principal

Resolution – Insurance Coverage - Excess Workers' Compensation, Liability, and Property

Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing Managed Care Organization - First MCO

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2016-23033) – C.F.

Resolution – Lease-Purchase Agreement for Trane - HVAC

Resolution – Awarding Contract to US Foods

Resolution – Acceptance of Comprehensive Equity Plan Needs Assessment and Adoption of Corrective Action Plan

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Authorizations Report (without the Use of School Buses)

Award of Contract Reports – add Asbestos Removal

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 11:56 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 6

Negative: None

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