

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

June 13, 2019  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order immediately following the agenda meeting on June 13, 2019 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 12:00 a.m. since the agenda meeting was held prior to the business meeting.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular business 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 on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this 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 to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

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

Present: Mmes. Barbosa (12:01 a.m.), Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Absent: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Chevres – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and members of the public were in attendance.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming

individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Since there were no public participants signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Pestana closed this portion of the meeting.

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Bilingual and ESL Education – Maria Triano

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Francesca Ferrera

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Melissa Kulick

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to untable the contract for CV Electrical Contractors, Inc.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent’s decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

Mrs. Pestana asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the Meetings of May 2 and 9, 2019  
 Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of April 2019  
 Personnel Report  
 Tuition Report  
 Superintendent's Report – Considerations  
 Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities  
 Superintendent's Report – Field Trips  
 Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results  
 Authorizations Report  
 Supplemental Authorizations Report  
 Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers  
 Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds  
 Award of Contracts Report  
 Miscellaneous Communication - None  
 Claims List  
 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  
 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

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the resolution for Gun Violence Awareness is important and June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. Mrs. Carvalho stated that in light of everything that has happened in the United States in the last few years it is important that we make sure that this resolution for Gun Violence Awareness Month is properly executed to all of our schools. Mrs. Carvalho stated that it is important that our staff take the time to properly prepare our students in case something happens.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, that the above be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa (abstain- Award of Contracts Report - Valenca's), Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – N.A., G.D.; Authorizations Report – M.C.), Chevres (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Considerations – C.A., J.R.; Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities – Request from EEA; Award of Contracts Report – Prevention Links), Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (abstain- Personnel Report – C.T.; Superintendent's Report – Considerations – R.C.; Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities – requests from City of Elizabeth; Authorizations Report – City of Elizabeth; Award of Contracts Report – Prevention Links), Mrs. Pestana (abstain – Authorizations Report – County of Union) – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana stated that she has designated office hours every Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during which Elizabeth families may make an appointment to meet with her and discuss any issues or concerns pertaining to the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mrs. Pestana stated that we are near the end of the 2018-2019 school year and close to our promotion and graduation ceremonies and thanked our students and teachers for their dedication to achieving excellence. Mrs. Pestana stated that it has been a privilege to meet many of them, to witness the inspiring work they are doing in our schools, and to recognize and celebrate their outstanding achievements throughout the course of the year. Mrs. Pestana stated that she especially wanted to congratulate our soon-to-be Class of 2019 graduates for their milestone achievement, including some who may be the first in their families to graduate high school or attend college this fall. Mrs. Pestana stated that she looks forward to seeing them at commencement next week and having the opportunity to personally congratulate them on stage when they come up to receive their diplomas. Mrs. Pestana stated that, on behalf of her colleagues on the Board, they are excited for the students' futures and for the positive impact they will make on the Elizabeth community and beyond. Mrs. Pestana stated that the education they received from the Elizabeth Public Schools has prepared them for all the opportunities in front of them. Mrs. Pestana thanked the members of the Elizabeth Public Schools learning community for their support throughout this year. Mrs. Pestana wished them a fun and safe summer. Mrs. Pestana stated that she looks forward to getting to know more of them and celebrating more of their success during the 2019-2020 school year.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega wished Happy Father's Day to all the fathers including Mr. Neron and Mr. Jacobs and stated that it is not easy to be here and do everything and hope they enjoy the wonderful weekend. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega congratulated the seniors and stated that she will not be at graduation. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she was selected to study for five weeks in Spain and is leaving this week. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that to her Colombian community that the Board of Education passed a resolution honoring Colombian Independence Day. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega read the resolution honoring Colombian Independence Day.

Mrs. Carvalho asked the Board, Superintendent and her staff if we can have a serious conversation about the legislation that is trying to be passed. Mrs. Carvalho stated that mental health is a serious issue and it is part of one of the reasons why we were elected to make sure that all of our children receive the services that they deserve and need to get.

Mr. Neron thanked Mrs. Moreno-Ortega for the wishes. Mr. Neron wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day for all the great work that they do and for being a great role model to the young people whether they have children or not. Mr. Neron stated that we appreciate them and salute them.

Mr. Jacobs wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day. Mr. Jacobs stated that during the month of June we acknowledge the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the slave trade. Mr. Jacobs stated that this upcoming Juneteenth liberation is an important event for African Americans, particularly the struggles that we have been through and the struggles that we continue to face today and the fact that we always will continue to fight and champion on. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is something for all of us to remember in our different cultures and different places that we come from that we are still all the same as human beings.

Mr. Neron invited everyone to the Juneteenth Celebration on June 19<sup>th</sup> and band together as we do the first Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony at 5:00 p.m. at the Union County Court House which will be an historic event.

Mrs. Barbosa congratulated all of the graduating students.

On a motion by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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