

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

June 27, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on June 27, 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 6:25 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a special 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 21, 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.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present to this June 27, 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. 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 may sign in up to the start of the public speaking portion 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: Mrs. Barbosa (arr. 9:20 p.m.), Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs (arr. 6:35 p.m.), Neron (arr. 9:10 p.m.), Mrs. Pestana – 8

Absent: Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Esq., Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq., DeCotiis, FitzPatrick and Cole, LLP and members of the public were present.

Mrs. Pestana called for a moment of silence for the loss of Anna Lucia Orellana, seventh grade student at Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology and the Arts School No. 9.

Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem

Mrs. Pestana 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.”

Mrs. Pestana called upon the first public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, spoke about her son and problems with special services for a 504 Plan and intervention. Mrs. Moreira spoke about the lack of minutes for committee meetings and stated that she hopes that the district adopts a LGBTQ policy.

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

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about SEPAC and the loss of extended school year (ESY) for some students.

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, spoke about the problems with her child who is in special education.

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

Veronica Salluca, parent, spoke about the problems with her child who is in special education.

Mrs. Pestana thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded to the concerns presented. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our 504 Coordinator is our Supervisor of Guidance Anthony DiDonato and thanked him for always attending our board meetings. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the literacy interventions are under the Division of Special Projects and they deliver literacy support services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she will speak with the Director of Special Services with regard to Mrs. Moreira's concerns of due process in terms of available information she did not receive at that time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Board has a copy of the proposed LGBTQ Policy and it is currently under review and is proposed to be on the agenda at the next scheduled meeting in July. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Board for taking the time to review each policy that has been put forth, presenting questions about their concerns, and hopes that the information she provided to them answers their questions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with regard to SEPAC, her understanding is that the link has always been managed by the parents and she will follow-up to ensure that we always have accurate information that is posted and that it is managed properly. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Extended School Year Program is starting on Monday and all parents were properly notified with regard to the start of the program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that based

on her review with the Director of Special Services, everything is in accordance with the student's IEP for those that qualify for the services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Mrs. Nunez to provide her telephone number so that the Director of Special Services could contact her and discuss the concerns she has presented this evening. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Mrs. Salluca to provide contact information so that the Director of Special Services could have a conversation with her and discuss the necessary supports for her child.

Since there were no other citizens to address the board, Mrs. Pestana declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Ms. Bathelus thanked the Superintendent for answering the community's questions.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel matters, specifically, interviews; legal matters, specifically, award of contracts and introduction of policies. The Board will reconvene in public and may take add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to go into private session at 6:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs,
Mrs. Pestana – 6

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus excused herself from the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 10:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron,
Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

Resolution – Appointing Two Brothers Contracting, Inc. for Asbestos Abatement
at School Nos. 15 and 16 and Approving Form of Contract

Resolution – Approving Entry into Lease/Purchase Agreement with Hewlett Packard
for Student Laptops

Resolution – Renew Contract with Royal Printing Service for District Printing and
Mailing Services

Resolution – Renew Contract with Royal Printing Service for District Publications

Resolution – Approving Ace Endico, Inc. to Supply and Deliver Weekly Orders of Fresh, Frozen,
and Dry Grocery Items Including Snacks and Cookies to Schools and District Warehouse
and Approving Form of Contract

First Reading of Revised Use of Facilities Policy File Code 1330

Mrs. Pestana asked Mr. Kennedy to read the first resolution.

Resolution – Appointment of Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction – Jose M. Rodriguez
Mr. Kennedy read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana asked for a motion to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolution – NJSBA Annual Workshop and Exhibition

Resolution – Appointing Tri-Form Construction, Inc. for Classroom Alterations

Resolution – Renew Contracts with Imperial Bag and Paper Co., LLC; Clean All Tech Corp.; and Spruce Industries for Chemical and Soap Products

Resolution – Renew Contract with Central Poly Bag Corp. for Plastic Bags

Resolution – Appointing Two Brothers Contracting, Inc. for Asbestos Abatement at School Nos. 15 and 16 and Approving Form of Contract

Resolution – Approving Entry into Lease/Purchase Agreement with Hewlett Packard for Student Laptops

Resolution – Renew Contract with Royal Printing Service for District Printing and Mailing Services

Resolution – Renew Contract with Royal Printing Service for District Publications

Resolution – Approving Ace Endico, Inc. to Supply and Deliver Weekly Orders of Fresh, Frozen, and Dry Grocery Items Including Snacks and Cookies to Schools and District Warehouse and Approving Form of Contract

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, that the resolutions be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

The first reading of the revised Use of Facilities Policy File No. 1330 was done.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel matters, specifically, superintendent's evaluation. The Board will reconvene in public and may take add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to go into private session at 10:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 11:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 7

Negative: None

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