

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

June 3, 2019  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on June 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., in Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, 919 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the meeting, there was a reception for the 2018-2019 Governor's Educator of the Year Program honoring teachers and educational service providers. The menu was selected and prepared by the students from Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy and Paul Conte, commercial foods teacher.

Board President Stephanie Pestana presented the following statement at 6:30 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 May 29, 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 3, 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, Ms. Bathelus (arr. 6:35 p.m.), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Absent: Mr. Neron – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., 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., DeCotiis, FitzPatrick and Cole, LLP and members of the public were present.

Mrs. Pestana called for a moment of silence for the loss of Laura Matino, kindergarten assistant, who was selected to be honored this evening as the Educational Service Provider of the Year at Joseph Battin School No. 4 and for the loss of Evelyn Cordoba, applicant specialist for Source 4 Teachers.

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

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was played.

Pledge of Ethics

Mrs. Pestana introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs.

Mrs. Pestana recognized three schools that were selected as 2019 National Schools of Character by Character.org. Mrs. Pestana stated that each year Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development which has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. Mrs. Pestana stated that through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, the schools selected as National Schools of Character were found to be exemplary models in character development. Mrs. Pestana stated that criteria for selection are based on Character.org's *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education*, a framework to assist schools in providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership, and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort. Mrs. Pestana congratulated Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Maria Labrador, Principal at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 and Jennifer Campel, Principal at Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 to present their journey to achieving this designation.

Principal Maria Labrador at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 presented the school's journey to becoming a National School of Character including the Character Education Committee, the Believe in Your Selfie Theme which stands for Self Discipline, Empathy, Leadership, Fairness, Integrity, and Excellence, and the Believe in Your Selfie school song.

Principal Jennifer Campel at Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 and Vice Principal Christina Brito presented their school's journey to becoming a National School of Character including the application, site visit, and setting a school-wide goal with eleven principles and four core values. Mrs. Campel stated that in October all three schools will be recognized as National Schools of Character in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Pestana introduced EEA President Joe Cortico and EASC President Jennifer Campel and thanked them for their support this evening for our teachers and educational service providers.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone and congratulated all of the honorees. Mrs. Hugelmeyer recognized the 2018-2019 Governor's Educators of the Year including first grade teacher Kathy Santor and school nurse Althea Hollis, George Washington Academy School No. 1; fifth grade teacher Tamika Riddick and library/media specialist Maria Bartolo, Winfield Scott School No. 2; third grade teacher JoAnn Fletcher-Johnson and school nurse Christine Prettyman-Lucich, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; learning language disabilities teacher Diana Bromirski and kindergarten assistant Laura Matino who passed away last week, Joseph Battin School No. 4; kindergarten teacher Fiona Simpson and kindergarten assistant Sara Pujazon, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; seventh and eighth grade teacher Laura Guidera and social worker Christine Rappa, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; sixth grade English language arts teacher Roseann Blaszak and personal associate Marloidy Vergara, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; physical education teacher Nicolas Chomko and teacher tutor interventionist K-5, iPrep Academy School No. 8; fourth grade teacher

Marianne English and speech language specialist Maria Rodriguez, Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; fifth grade teacher Lauren Depp and teacher tutor interventionist K-5 Anny Gaczynski, Elmora School No. 12; seventh and eighth grade English language arts teacher Leann Grabowski and learning language disabilities assistant Lateefah Williams, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; bilingual kindergarten teacher Rossy McNamara and school psychologist Ruben Lambert, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; second grade teacher Alexandre Fernandes and personal assistant Yeni Gonzalez-Madrigal, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; seventh grade math teacher Andrew Kaplan and bilingual kindergarten assistant Mafalda Taborda, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; kindergarten teacher Elizabeth Loomis and kindergarten assistant Stephanie Amorim, Robert Morris School No. 18; third grade Heather Kalish and speech and language specialist Monica Acosta, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; second grade teacher Jani Diaz and math instructional coach Dina Faria, John Marshall School No. 20; seventh grade math teacher Ewelina Mendez and guidance counselor Meghan Lewandowski, Victor Mravlag School No. 21; prekindergarten teacher Francisca Alvarado and child development associate Susan Giaccio, William F. Halloran School No. 22; third grade teacher Eileen Doherty and guidance counselor Katherine Amato, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23; fifth grade teacher Addie Latza and library/media specialist Mary Ann Davies, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25; sixth grade English language arts teacher Michelle McGuire and library/media specialist Diane Bliss, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; bilingual kindergarten teacher Lina Ruiz and teacher tutor interventionist K-5 Jennifer Gonzalez, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; prekindergarten teacher Naomi Montalvo and speech and language specialist Susane Dardeir, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; seventh and eighth grade math teacher Charmara Davis and kindergarten assistant Rosa Marmolejos, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; fourth grade teacher Rafael Lopez and autism assistant Leslie Swaggerty, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30; prekindergarten teacher Geraldine Andino and child development associate Keena Pompey, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50; prekindergarten teacher Jean-Louis Kong and child development associate Marina Rodriguez, Donald Steward Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51; prekindergarten teacher Jennifer Cerra and child development associate Janelle Hartz, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 52; business education teacher Alyssa Milanes and guidance counselor Briana Helm, J. Christian Bollwage Academy of Finance; bilingual math teacher Elizabeth Velasco and guidance counselor Aimee Saluccio, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; auto mechanics teacher Stephen Yaniak and social worker Lisa Sherer, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy; art teacher Maria O’Keeffe and school nurse Sivia Lieberman, Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy; J.R.O.T.C. teacher Cedric Jefferson and guidance counselor Ilona Sekiewicz, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy; English teacher Katelyn Banks and school psychologist Kristy Martinez-Kumar, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; resource center teacher Dolores Camp and guidance counselor Natasha Morrissey, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer acknowledged the amazing work, dedication, and passion of all the honorees. Mrs. Hugelmeyer and Board members congratulated the teachers and educational service providers and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

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.”

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

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to go into private session at 8:12 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to reconvene in public session at 9:26 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq., DeCotiis, FitzPatrick and Cole, LLP stated that there are resolutions recommended for the Board to take action.

Resolution – Insurance Coverage Health Benefits - Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Resolution – Insurance Coverage Dental – Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Approving EEA Agreements Pursuant to Invoking the Doctrine of Necessity

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Hernandez, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 7

Abstain: Mrs. Chevres – 1

Negative: None

Mrs. Pestana congratulated all of our Teachers of the Year and counselors, teachers, and educators who were here this evening.

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:  
Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Mr.  
Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Pestana – 8  
Negative: None

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