

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

June 4, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on June 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., in Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the meeting, there was a reception for the 2017-2018 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 Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 6:10 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 2, 2018. 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 4, 2018 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. 6:20 p.m.), Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Absent: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Nina, Rodriguez – 3

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., DeCotiis, FitzPatrick and Cole, LLP and members of the public were present.

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
Pledge of Ethics

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone and congratulated all of the honorees. Mrs. Hugelmeyer recognized the 2017-2018 Governor's Educators of the Year including third grade teacher Jeanene Baylock and child development associate Mercedes Felix, George Washington Academy School No. 1; prekindergarten teacher Anna Rigopoulos and child development associate Maria Noel, Winfield Scott School No. 2; 3rd grade teacher Gina Rysinski and special education assistant Edward Melchionna, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3; computer literacy teacher Drew Thomas and speech language specialist Ellen Hess, Joseph Battin School No. 4; learning language disabilities teacher Shawn Shumbris and learning language disabilities assistant Georgia Chrysanthopoulos, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5; resource teacher Kimberly Aleksandrich and bilingual kindergarten assistant Magdalena Fernandez, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6; visual arts teacher Marcelo Dossantos and child development associate Maria Gil, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7; teacher tutor interventionist Kristina Mitovski and social worker Denise Uniacke, iPrep Academy School No. 8; physical education teacher Lacey McConkey and teacher tutor interventionist Lizzie Belvin-Flowers, Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9; music teacher Anna Kroik and school nurse Lisa Gentile, Elmora School No. 12; fifth grade teacher Carolyn Kirkwood and bilingual kindergarten assistant Juana Zuloaga, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13; 7th and 8th grade teacher Diana Valente and teacher instructional coach Christopher Pagoota, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14; 5th grade teacher Catherine Simon and bilingual kindergarten assistant Magdalena Guzman, Christopher Columbus School No. 15; kindergarten teacher Marissa Miceli and teacher tutor interventionist Jennifer Kurywczak, Madison-Monroe School No. 16; 4th grade teacher Doreen Stromko and kindergarten assistant Karina Berdugo, Robert Morris School No. 18; kindergarten teacher Rosemary Ruela and bilingual kindergarten assistant Merida Barquin, Woodrow Wilson School No. 19; 2nd grade bilingual teacher Claudia Restrepo and guidance counselor Sarah Brown, John Marshall School No. 20; music teacher Gabrielle Richa and child development associate Sarai Aleman, Victor Mravlag School No. 21; 4th and 5th grade teacher Katie Serbeck and resource center teacher Christine Maresca, William F. Halloran School No. 22; 7th and 8th grade science teacher Krystyna Jaskowski and nurse Marie Noonan, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23; 2nd grade bilingual teacher Denise Rodriguez and guidance counselor Melissa Zappia, Charles J. Hudson School No. 25; 4th grade teacher Jane Gladis and kindergarten assistant Cristobalina Gonzalez, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26; 6th grade teacher Lindsay Walker and teacher tutor interventionist Amber Palombo, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27; guidance counselor Julissa Urena and guidance counselor Wilma Helm, Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28; 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science teacher John Markowitz and learning language disabilities assistant Silvia Jacobson, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29; resource center teacher Cecilia Kayiwa and guidance counselor Cindy Lichtenstein, Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30; prekindergarten teacher Robin Drogin and LDT-C Elisa Molina-Lopez, Frances C. Smith Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 50; prekindergarten teacher Natalia Liquori and nurse Denean Webb, Donald Steward Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51; prekindergarten teacher Johanna Rodriguez and child development associate Raquel Villarino, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 52; science teacher Marvin Randle and guidance counselor Safiyyah Howell, J. Christian Bollwage Academy of Finance; world language teacher Melissa Wells and teacher instructional coach Jessy Mathew, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy; chemistry teacher Kaitlyn Conley and guidance counselor Linda Spears-Lewis, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy; science teacher Anila Eugene and guidance counselor Jecenia Solorzano-Castro, Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy; health occupations teacher Eileen Mulroy and guidance counselor Adrian Bennett, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy; social studies teacher Brendan Meade and guidance counselor Wendy Maravi, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy; science teacher Rubina Saghir and library/media specialist Antoinette Murphy, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer

and Board members congratulated the teachers and educational service providers and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced EEA President Joe Cortico and EASC President George Mikros and thanked them for their support this evening for our teachers and educational service providers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer recognized Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste who was in attendance.

Mrs. Carvalho congratulated everyone and stated that we have an amazing school district because of what the teachers and educational service providers do each and every day. Mrs. Carvalho stated that you came up and received your award but you also came up and acknowledged your principals and assistant superintendents. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we know that it takes a village to raise a child. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she is standing here staring at excellence and thanked them for being the excellence of our district.

Mrs. Carvalho called for a short recess at 7:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public session at 7:24 p.m.

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

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, thanked Ms. Bathelus for looking into the lunch prices. Mrs. Moreira spoke about the multiple transaction fees charged for a family on myschoolbucks.com and that the parents should be reimbursed for the extra fees. Mrs. Moreira spoke about the committee meetings.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other citizens to address the board, Mrs. Carvalho 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 personnel, specifically, reorganization – job descriptions, superintendent’s evaluation; and legal, specifically, grant applications. The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to go into private session at 7:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega,
Mr. Neron, Mrs. Carvalho – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Barbosa excused herself from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to reconvene in public session at 11:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron,
Mrs. Carvalho – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Memorandum of Understanding for Partnership with United Way of Greater Union County (UWGUC), the lead agency for WIOA Youth Employment and Training Consortium

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Neron, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron,
Mrs. Carvalho – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Descriptions

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron,
Mrs. Carvalho – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the Bylaw and Policy Committee members are Chairperson Stanley Neron and committee members Jerry Jacobs and Rosa Moreno-Ortega.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the above be confirmed.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron,
Mrs. Carvalho – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there was any new business.

Mr. Neron congratulated all of our Teachers of the Year and counselors, teachers, and educators who were here this evening. Mr. Neron thanked the staff at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 for hosting the meeting tonight. Mr. Neron thanked all of the educators who take the front line each and every day to educate our youth, really change lives, and impact our community. Mr. Neron thanked the Superintendent and entire staff for all of the great work that they have done to get us this far. Mr. Neron stated that we just had an intense meeting going over deep data diving and understanding the work that you did this past year and we are all very proud of you.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for presenting her evaluation tonight and stated that it was very detailed. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we were there for a few hours and it was worth the conversations that we had about moving this district forward. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the Jefferson Arts students who came out to the first LGBTQ Pride flag raising in Union County and stated that it was a historical day. Mrs. Carvalho stated that our students represented our district with a lot of pride and everyone that was there was moved by their singing.

Mr. Neron commended the IT Department and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy for an amazing Public Service Announcement (PSA) that they were able to put together for graduation and prom safety. Mr. Neron stated that when it comes to drinking, driving, and drugs we want to

make sure it doesn't happen and that the students are able to celebrate life and successes and not mourn tragedies that happen as a result of these abuses. Mr. Neron stated that is depicted through an awesome PSA that he would love to see shown throughout our district to our younger students to really get a chance to learn from our older students about what to prevent in the future. Mr. Neron stated that we had an awesome *Save A Life Tour* which is just one of the ways we try to communicate to our students how to be safe during this time of the year. Mr. Neron stated that 10% of fatalities are happening because of texting while driving and driving while under the influence and we want to make sure that we prevent that. Mr. Neron stated that when they get ready for prom and the prom showcase on June 6th they want everything to be a huge success and have great memories to share. Mr. Neron thanked everyone for their participation.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone for the outpouring of help they received from the community. Mrs. Carvalho thanked Taneka Bowles for helping our young ladies with dresses and for all of the donations of dresses and tuxedos we received for our students. Mrs. Carvalho thanked the barbers who are doing free haircuts and hairdressers who are doing updos and makeup. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we truly have an amazing community and thanked each and every one for allowing our children to have the best experience. Mrs. Carvalho encouraged everyone to share the PSA to keep our children safe.

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Miss Goncalves, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron,
Mrs. Carvalho – 5

Negative: None

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