

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 22, 2019
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order immediately following the agenda meeting on August 22, 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 11:01 p.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 August 8, 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: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (via phone), Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Hernandez, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Pestana – 8

Absent: Mr. Jacobs – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, 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.”

Mrs. Pestana called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about the PTA special education meeting, advocacy meeting, Spanish speaking community, and posting of curriculum.

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

Kason Little, 225 S. Seventh Street, spoke about the Sunshine Law.

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

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

Minutes of the Agenda and Business Meetings of July 18, 2019
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2019
Personnel Report
Supplemental Personnel Report
Tuition Report
Superintendent's Report – Considerations
Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
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
Supplemental Award of Contracts Report
2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report
Miscellaneous Communication - None
Claims List
Resolution – Five Year Curriculum Plan 2019-2024
Resolution – Curriculum Guides 2019-2020
Resolution – Programs of Study 2019-2020
Resolution – Textbooks 2019-2020
Resolution – Qualifying and Appointing Professional Consultants for Board Governance
Resolution – Acceptance of Purchase Orders for Out-of-Service School Buses
Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Resolution – Deputy Counsel Contract
Resolution – Associate Counsel Contract
Resolution – Lead Investigator Contract
Resolution – Paralegal Contract
Resolution – Confidential Legal Secretaries Contract
Resolution – Chief Information Officer (Technology) Contract
Resolution – Confidential Administrative Secretaries Contract
Resolution – Senior Staffing Assistant Contract
Resolution – Staffing Assistants Contract
Resolution – Human Resources Confidential Secretaries Contract
Resolution – Chief of Operations and Comptroller Contracts
Resolution – Assistant Superintendents and School Business Administrator Contracts
Resolution – Approving Addendum to Extend Agreement between BOE and ESS Northeast, LLC
d/b/a Source4Teachers

Resolution – Authorizing the Issuance of an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) Request for Proposals

Resolution – Appointing Portuguese Auto Repair to Service District Small to Midsized Trucks and Other Vehicles

Resolution – Appointing Portuguese Auto Repair to Service District Large Trucks and Other Vehicles

Resolution – Appointing Trinitas Children’s Therapy Services to Provide Physical and Occupational Therapy Services to District Students and Approving Form of Contract

Resolution – Transfer of Vice Principal – Linda Ferreira

Resolution – Suspension with Pay – Nelly Acevedo

Resolution – Transfer – Nicholas John Perretti

Resolution – Termination of Employment effective August 15, 2019 – Claudia Certuche

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – Joanne Madeline

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – Sharon Jackson

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2018-14251) – Anthony Torres

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2000-3744) – Frank LaFace

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2009-14378) – Kathleen Glackin

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2017-34213) – Josue Fajardo

Resolution – Adoption of 2019-2020 Board Goals

Resolution – Appointing Varsity Brands Holding Co., Inc. d/b/a Varsity Spirit Fashions and Supplies, LLC to Provide Cheerleading Athletic Equipment and Supplies

Resolution – Appointing V.A. Tramontano and Son, Inc. to Provide Fresh Produce Items for District Food Services

Resolution – Appointing Henry Schein, Inc. and School Health Corporation to Provide Athletic Trainer Medical Equipment and Supplies

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, that the above be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus (abstain- Authorizations Report – County of Union, Charlene Bathelus), Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Authorizations Report – Groundwork Elizabeth, Maria Carvalho, Olga Hugelmeyer; Resolution- Chief of Operations and Comptroller Contracts; Resolution- Approval of Employment Contracts; Resolution- Associate Counsel Contract), Chevres (abstain- Authorizations Report– Iliana Chevres, Olga Hugelmeyer; Resolution- Chief of Operations and Comptroller Contracts), Hernandez (abstain- Authorizations Report – County of Union), Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (abstain- Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities – City of Elizabeth Dept. of Health and Human Services; Authorizations Report – Olga Hugelmeyer; Resolution- Chief of Operations and Comptroller Contracts; Resolution- Approval of Employment Contracts – Rafael Cortes; Resolution- Associate Counsel Contract), Mrs. Pestana (abstain- Authorizations Report – County of Union, Stephanie Pestana) – 8

Negative: None

The first reading of the new Policy File Code 5145.7 – Gender Identity and Expression was done.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega congratulated the Elmora Troopers and stated that we are very proud. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega invited everyone to the parade on September 6, 2019 to celebrate.

Mr. Neron stated that we had awesome summer programs throughout our City and commended our instructors, our youth who participated in our summer programs and our parents who supported our summer programs. Mr. Neron wished everyone a very successful coming school year and stated that we worked very hard to make sure we have programs that are not only innovative but improve on what we were doing in the past. Mr. Neron stated that we have been evaluating all summer and we are still evaluating and we have a number of goals that make sure we continually hone in on the work that has been done and to make sure that we continually improve.

Mr. Neron stated that we are all in the spirit of our Troopers and something monumental and historic was done here in our City and we are very proud of our young people and their coaches. Mr. Neron stated that more importantly, we see what happens when families come together to really support their children. Mr. Neron stated that we saw that through the great work and effort of the Troopers. Mr. Neron stated that there are a lot of great efforts happening throughout the City but this one was monumental and really put our City in a positive light. Mr. Neron stated that we celebrate them and welcome them home and we are so happy for all of their great accomplishments. Mr. Neron stated that the sky is the limit from here and these are lasting memories that will be with these young people for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Neron stated that his last comment is about healing the wounds. Mr. Neron stated that we live in a state in our country now where there is a lot of discontentment with racial harmony in our country. Mr. Neron stated that there are a lot of issues happening and one of the key things that we really need to hone in on is educating each other. Mr. Neron stated that we talk about this often about really looking at an inclusive curriculum where you get an opportunity to learn about each other's culture and history. Mr. Neron stated that American history is something that is very diverse and we need to make sure that our children are not only learning in the classroom but it really starts at home teaching racial and cultural sensitivity. Mr. Neron stated that we all have a great responsibility to make sure that we take that approach and that we are doing our job as parents and as educators making sure that our children are getting a balanced education. Mr. Neron stated that in the coming months we are going to make additional efforts to show that is happening in our district. Mr. Neron stated that we already exemplified that and we want to press on and keep pushing to make sure that we are a model district for the country.

Mr. Neron commended all of our staff and employees that have been working arduously this summer and we celebrate them. Mr. Neron welcomed all of our new staff coming on board to the Elizabeth Public Schools and, hopefully, they will find this to be their home and become a life-long learner educator.

Mrs. Pestana congratulated all of the summer school graduates who graduated this past month. Mrs. Pestana stated that we are looking forward to having a successful 2019-2020 school year.

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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