

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 9-22-16

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

August 31, 2016  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 31, 2016 at 7:30 p.m., in the Multi Purpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Charlene Bathelus presented the following statement at 7:45 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 Monday, August 29, 2016. 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 August 31, 2016 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 must sign in prior to the commencement of public participation 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. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,  
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Absent: Mrs. Amin, Messrs. Perreira, Trujillo – 3

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance  
Pledge of Ethics

Board President Bathelus 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, Ms. Bathelus 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 the Superintendent’s Evaluation, Superintendent of Schools Annual Performance Report, Board Member Self Evaluation, and School Board’s Professional Development Improvement Plan. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Nina, to go into private session at 7:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Rodriguez,  
Ms. Bathelus – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Nina excused himself from the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to reconvene in public session at 10:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 5  
Negative: None

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez, Ms. Bathelus – 5  
Negative: None

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