

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

September 15, 2011
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on September 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi Purpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Marie Munn presented the following statement at 7:25 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Friday, September 9, 2011. 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 and to our television viewers to this September 15, 2011 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 one hour prior to the advertised start 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: Pastor Burgos (arr. 9:10 p.m.), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Board Attorney Kirk Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Executive Director of Human Resources/Labor Attorney Karen Murray, Comptroller William Greene and members of the public were in attendance.

Sandra Harte, Vice Principal of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Leadership Academy gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bethsaida Villacis, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mrs. Munn stated that this past week has been one of reflection on the events of September 11, 2001 and on the very human aspect of this national tragedy. Mrs. Munn then called for a moment of silence in honor of all the brave Americans who lost their lives on 9/11, especially the six citizens of the City of Elizabeth.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students in The Voices of Harmony from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Monica Figueroa, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mrs. Munn introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Munn introduced students from The Voices of Harmony from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 who performed *Like Cedars They Shall Stand* by Dan Schute. Mrs. Munn thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Munn introduced Amanda Tempesta, former student of Elmora School No. 12, who lost her father on September 11, 2001. Mrs. Munn and Board members presented Amanda with a plaque of commemoration for her courage in sharing her heartfelt story with the students of the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Miss Amanda Tempesta gave a moving speech about the loss of her father on September 11, 2001 and her story about the days that followed September 11th and thanked everyone for letting her share her story.

Mr. Nazco thanked Amanda for her touching and moving words and stated that September 11th will go down as one of the tragic days in American history. Mr. Nazco stated that her story should be told over and over again so that we can remember and reflect on all those lives that were lost, all those 2,987 lives will be remembered and deeply missed. Mr. Nazco commented that he was sorry for her loss and thanked her for sharing her story.

Mr. Trujillo thanked Amanda and commented that he admired her courage. Mr. Trujillo commented that he is holding back his tears and her words touched us all and humbled everyone here. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a strong story with a big message and her father must be very proud. Mr. Trujillo stated that you have touched everyone and how amazing that is, that you put it in perspective, that we often take people for granted especially those that we love and just like that everything can change. Mr. Trujillo thanked Amanda from the bottom of his heart and commented that it has given him a lot to think about tonight. Mr. Trujillo stated that in spite of everything that is going on and all the challenges that we face on a daily basis, that you put it in perspective, to slow down and think about the important things in life.

Mrs. Munn thanked Amanda and stated that this is emotional for her because unfortunately she was there and definitely shared in her experience. Mrs. Munn stated that Amanda is very strong and very courageous and thanked her for sharing her story.

Mrs. Munn introduced Jacqueline Crespo, sixth grade student at Elmora School No. 12 who performed *God Bless the USA* by Lee Greenwood. Mrs. Munn thanked Jacqueline Crespo for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Munn introduced students from the Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 Choir who performed *Empire State of Mind (Part II)* by Janet Sewell, Angela Hunte, Shawn Carter, Sylvia Robinson, Bert Keyes, Alicia Keys and Alexander Shuckburgh. Mrs. Munn thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mr. Trujillo thanked all the children and commented that the performances tonight makes him proud to be an American. Mr. Trujillo stated that he almost missed this meeting and is so grateful that he made it and that he has been inspired and rejuvenated by the performances. Mr. Trujillo stated that often we get tired of things in our lives and everyday life can be a burden but to see the pride and joy of our children performing, the good news that we are achieving at higher levels every day, the district is moving forward, to see the kids come here and perform in front of a group of strangers, share their story, their courage, it inspires him and makes him want to be a better person and want to do more for his community. Mr. Trujillo stated that everything we do here is paying off, we see the room full of parents, educators, and support staff that really care about our children, people who really care about our children and understand that when they achieve we are a better America. Mr. Trujillo stated that September 11th changed the way America lives every day and we can never forget that, we are one city of many in this country, and we must do our part. Mr. Trujillo stated that each and every one of you here today should take something away from these performances and understand that we have too much to lose and everything to gain. Mr. Trujillo stated that America is so great because of cities like Elizabeth, NJ, that because of people like you who leave their families not knowing what is going to happen, but knowing what you have to do so our children can have a better tomorrow, that every day that you invest in our children, you invest in the future of this country. Mr. Trujillo stated that Elizabeth, NJ, is one city of many and we have to do our part. Mr. Trujillo thanked each and every one who came here tonight and stated that there are meetings all over the country tonight with empty auditoriums, city business being done without the public even being present, board meetings going on, children's educational futures being discussed without anyone being there, but everyone here took the time because you care, and it is because of people like you that Elizabeth makes New Jersey better and New Jersey makes the United States better. God Bless all of you for coming here tonight and God bless the kids who have the opportunity to come here and inspire us all to be better people.

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 M.A. and C.L. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to go into private session at 8:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, Gonzalez, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo and Mrs. Munn reconvened in public at 8:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the minutes of the meetings of August 18 and 29, 2011 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2011

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. González, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo,
Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Retirements, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. DaSilva, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo,
Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina returned to the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Supplemental Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira,
Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. DaSilva, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira,
Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. González, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina (abstain- America's United Soccer Academy), Messrs.
DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira,
Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated that he is presenting two reports tonight. Superintendent Muñoz highlighted the excellent news around the district including that the Elizabeth Public Schools welcomed back students and team members and is now one of the few districts in the nation that operates all of its schools on an extended day schedule with the K-8 neighborhood schools attending classes from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Mr. Muñoz stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools administrators attended the annual "Welcome Back" orientation with presenter Dr. Timothy G. Quinn, former teacher, principal, superintendent of schools, President of Northwestern Michigan College, Deputy State Superintendent of Instruction in Wisconsin, and author of *In the Arena: Building the Skills for Peak Performance in Leading Schools and Systems*. Mr. Muñoz stated that one of Elizabeth's most popular high schools, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, with a rigorous curriculum and a long waiting list of students expanded and the new Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex opened on September 7 with over 260 freshmen increasing the school's current student population to approximately 950 students. Mr. Muñoz stated that two students, Vicente Gualpa from Elizabeth High School and Jeffrey Rodriguez from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy are among the finalists of the 2011 Mahatma Gandhi Art and Writing Contest, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy opened the National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academy of Engineering, Remembrance of 9/11 at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, Discussion of 9/11 through Math at Madison-Monroe School No. 16 and Robert Morris School No. 18, Reflections of 9/11 at Robert Morris School No. 18, Memorial Ceremony for 9/11 at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, True Meaning of Patriotism at Robert Morris School No. 18, Commemoration of 9/11 at Joseph Battin School No. 4. Mr. Muñoz stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools remembers a hero, Lt. Col. Edmund James Connelly, USMC retired who was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on August 18, 2011 with full military honors and for many years was the Marine Corps JROTC instructor at Halsey House of Elizabeth High School (currently known as Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy). Mr. Muñoz continued with the highlights including that Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 has every homeroom assigned a different college or university from around the country, Safety Patrol at Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, the district received three awards in the National Schools Public Relations Association's (NSPRA) 2011 Publications and Electronic Media Awards competition, Elizabeth High School students Tome Correia and Jonathan Yakubov attended the Groundwork Annual Youth Summit, and first grade students at Robert Morris School No. 18 created an impressive bulletin board of activities they would like to share with their new classmates. Mr. Muñoz stated that you are invited to visit our website www.epsnj.org, and that you can find us on Facebook, YouTube, and EPStv which is broadcasting directly tonight.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz stated his next report is that Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 has been named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School and is now considered among the best in the nation. Mr. Muñoz stated that the U.S. Department of Education named 304 schools as 2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 is one of 14 schools selected in the State of New Jersey to have been awarded this national recognition. Mr. Muñoz stated that the U.S. Department of Education will honor Principal Jennifer Cedeno and the Terence C. Reilly School 7 Team at an award ceremony in the Nation's capital and will be presented with their National Blue Ribbon School flag and engraved plaque as symbols of their success. Mr. Muñoz thanked Principal Jennifer Cedeno who a few years ago was charged with being principal of Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and the wisdom of the Board of Education to create this school at this location. Mr. Muñoz stated that the Elizabeth Board of Education now has three Blue Ribbon Schools, Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7.

Mrs. Munn recognized Principal Jennifer Cedenó and team members from Terence C. Reilly School No. 7. Mrs. Munn and Board members congratulated them on their success as being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Mrs. Jennifer Cedenó commented that this award belongs to the staff members, parents and students of Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 and thanked everyone for their hard work and support.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter Into Partnership, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter Into Partnership, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

2nd Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Approve Submission, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. González, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. González, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. DaSilva, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira (abstain- Candelario Trujillo), Mrs. Munn – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Christopher Columbus Day

Mr. Donoso read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Donoso, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Italian-American Heritage Month

Mr. DaSilva read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo congratulated the Italian-Americans in the City of Elizabeth and commented they have an incredible history and the Peterstown section is a beautiful community within Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo recognized a few Italian-Americans including Mrs. Barrett's mother who was a very caring woman and a very proud Italian-American, 6th Ward Councilman Frank Mazza, and attorney Frank Capece. Mr. Trujillo stated that if everyone took the time to reflect throughout their life they have come across an Italian-American who has made an impression on them and thanked all the Italian-Americans.

The second reading of the revised Qualifications and Requirements of Board Members Bylaw File No. 9111 was done.

Resolution – Revised Qualifications and Requirements of Board Members Bylaw File Code 9111

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Union County Crime Stoppers Program – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with pay – M.A.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Abstain: Pastor Burgos – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with pay – C.L.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was defeated by the following vote:

Affirmative: None

Abstain: Pastor Burgos – 1

Negative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Mr. DaSilva excused himself from the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Mrs. Munn 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. Munn called upon the first public participant to address the Board.

George Mikros, Principal of Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, stated that he was presenting a status report on the new Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Annex which has the capacity for 260 students for the nationally recognized AVID program, that there was a great start to the year with all the classrooms set up, that computers and StarBoards were installed in each classroom, that 98% of the students have uniforms and 2% of the students are waiting for one or two items from the uniform company, transportation has been set and running its routes and that we have continued to offer challenging classes including AP World History and Honors classes. Mr. Mikros recognized the Board of Education and Superintendent for their hard work and vision for our students which has brought recognition to Elizabeth Public Schools as being ranked No. 1 Urban School District in New Jersey.

Mrs. Munn thanked him for his comments and called upon the next participant to address the Board.

Michael Cummings, Principal of Elizabeth High School, stated that over the summer the articles in the Star Ledger inspired him to write an editorial to the Star Ledger newspaper that they never published. Mr. Cummings read his editorial, “In Elizabeth, Let the Data Speak”, which stated that when he was young he believed what he read in the newspaper, that when he

was older he knew better but he still believed what he read in the Star Ledger, however, the recent spate of articles by a certain reporter attacking the Elizabeth Board of Education can only be considered as one of the most libelous and prejudicial examples of yellow journalism that he can ever recall. Mr. Cummings continued reading his editorial which concluded with, 'How about this headline "Urban District Embraces Accountability" and that, actually, is news. Writing articles, repeatedly, from the perspective of disgruntled employees, is not news – no matter how many times you write them.'

Mrs. Munn thanked him for his comments and called upon the next participant to address the Board.

Tina Smith, 70 Westfield Avenue, stated that she is a proud graduate of Elizabeth High School, that she is now a social worker, and that there is a black cloud above the nine Board members and she is disappointed with them.

Mr. Trujillo interrupted Ms. Smith and stated that he will not allow her to make verbal attacks on the Board President or others. Mr. Trujillo stated that there is a policy which states no personal attacks.

Since there were no citizens signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Munn declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mr. Donoso stated that he was pleased this week to read that Education Commissioner Chris Cerf has started a campaign to emphasize accountability and end the mounds of paperwork and that the reports indicate that their target is outdated and has unnecessary regulations. Mr. Donoso stated that the task force which has carefully studied the problem has concluded that a better job at streamlining regulations and making the delivery of education more effective is something we can all support.

Mr. Perreira stated that it is an honor to have another National Blue Ribbon School, that there are over 600 districts in the State of New Jersey and Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 is one of 14 schools selected in New Jersey as a National Blue Ribbon School and we now have three National Blue Ribbon Schools in Elizabeth and thanked everyone for their hard work and getting great results.

Mr. Donoso commented that he is very proud of Superintendent Pablo Muñoz for his leadership, that he is very impressed and thanked the Superintendent.

Mr. DaSilva returned to the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she is honored to be on the Board of Education, that she is an educator and belongs to the teacher's union, that the Board members work hard and put in long hours, that we have great team of administrators, teachers, staff, custodians, and security guards and thanked Superintendent Muñoz for being a great leader. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she was insulted by the public speaker and that the Board members are respectful and deserve respect.

Mr. González stated that this year marks the fifth year that we adopted the policy for school uniforms, and he is very proud that every school in Elizabeth, with the exception of one that we have to do by law, has uniforms, that very few public schools in the State and around the country can say that. Mr. González stated that uniforms are a peace of mind for the parents and peace of mind for the children so that don't have to worry about competition. Mr. González stated that the uniform policy is a tremendous endeavor that we took five years ago and that it is a

sign of pride and that we are very proud of what we have accomplished and what we will be accomplishing in the future.

Mr. Nazco stated that in regard to the matter of Principal Carlos Lucio we have now had the opportunity to consider the matter of his administrative leave, the statement by Mr. Lucio's counsel, the affidavit of Mr. Lucio's former spouse, and our counsel's interview with Mr. Lucio himself provided the following which we considered, that the ex-spouse stated that she alone prepared and submitted the application and Mr. Lucio had no knowledge that it was being submitted. Mr. Nazco stated that we appreciate that the Superintendent acted appropriately and within his authority based on the information available at the time. Mr. Nazco stated that despite the newspaper conviction by headline Mr. Lucio by all information before the Board in no way acted improperly. Mr. Nazco stated that a lot of the stories that are in the Star Ledger say a lot of things but one thing that they rarely address is the product. Mr. Nazco stated that we are in the business of educating our children, and the product is good and we are doing good things here in Elizabeth. Mr. Nazco congratulated Mrs. Cedeno and her staff for achieving Blue Ribbon status and that is our third Blue Ribbon school in Elizabeth. Mr. Nazco stated that he is proud that we are the No. 1 Urban School District in New Jersey, eleven new schools, the No. 2 High School in the State and none of that is mentioned in the Star Ledger. Mr. Nazco congratulated Superintendent Muñoz on his achievements and accomplishments and that he is working very hard to ensure that our children are receiving the best education possible. Mr. Nazco stated that one of the things that people do not realize about serving on the Board of Education is the time and dedication it takes to ensure that the citizens, the parents, the children are receiving the best quality education that we can provide them.

Mr. Trujillo congratulated Mr. Munoz and the administration for having Terence C. Reilly selected as a National Blue Ribbon School. Mr. Trujillo congratulated Jennifer Cedeno and commented that she has touched so many lives and remembered when she was being interviewed for the position of principal of Terence C. Reilly and was told to get a blue ribbon.

Mrs. Munn commented that today's news is tomorrow's trash, that she made a comment and restitution. Mrs. Munn apologized to the Board for the negative attention brought to the district and hoped to move forward so we as a Board can continue working. Mrs. Munn congratulated Mr. Munoz on the accomplishments and looks forward to continuing the progress.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for interviews, reorganization, workers' compensation claims, specifically, R.A., D.C., G.G., R.J., D.L., K.R., B.V., J.R., G.F., and J.T. and litigation appeal. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Donoso, seconded by Mr. Nazco, to go into private session at 10:03 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Pastor Burgos, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 9

Negative: None

Pastor Burgos excused himself from the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 11:45 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Mrs. Munn amended the private session statement to include workers' compensation claims specifically F.A., J.M., G.B. and F.L.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2009-28588 – B.V.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2009-31865 – K.R.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2007-29134 – J.R.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2009-6480 – J.R.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim Nos. 2009-16661, 2009-16662, and 2010-8912 – R.J.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2009-25274 – D.L.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2010-11214 – G.G.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2007-9699 – G.F.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2009-20916 – D.C.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2008-32792 – R.A.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. DaSilva, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Abstain: Mr. Nazco – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Personnel Actions

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Abstain: Mr. Nazco – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Personnel Actions

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Abstain: Messrs. Nazco, Perreira – 2

Negative: None

2nd Supplemental Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso (abstain- M.D.), González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Abstain: Mr. Perreira – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Litigation Appeal

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 5

Abstain: Messrs. DaSilva, Nazco, Perreira – 3

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Munn, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that a special committee be established for the purpose of negotiations to be effective immediately through the Reorganization meeting.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Munn appointed Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Mr. Gonzalez, and Mr. Trujillo to the special committee and named Mrs. Castillo-Ospina as Chairperson.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for interviews. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. Donoso, to go into private session at 12:00 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 12:20 a.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 12:50 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Melissa Leite

Mr. DaSilva read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Jennifer Campel

Mr. Donoso read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Donoso, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Yalitza Torres

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Michael Cummings

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Philip Gomez

Mr. Nazco read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. DaSilva, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Michelle Cunha

Mr. Donoso read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Donoso, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Donoso, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

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