

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

September 18, 2014
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on September 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28, 25 First Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Board President Tony Monteiro welcomed everyone to Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 and thanked Principal Sulisnet Jimenez, Vice Principals Nancy Georgette and Joan Tomek, and the staff for allowing us to have our meeting here.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:20 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 Monday, September 15, 2014. 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 18, 2014 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira (arr. 8:45 p.m.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenio, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Dr. William Greene gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elizabeth Jerez and Britney Spearman-Williams, eighth grade students at Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by the Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 Chorus.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Gabriela Duran, seventh grade student, and Juliet George, eighth grade student, at Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mr. Monteiro introduced Gary Lawrie, Jr., seventh grade student, and Melanie Garcia-Vargas, eighth grade student, from Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 who read the poem *I Have a White Rose to Tend* by José Julián Martí. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro stated that staff from George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 have also joined us tonight. Mr. Monteiro introduced George Washington Academy School No. 1 Principal Anthony Ziobro and Vice Principals Michael Wansaw and Marlene Oliva-Hasewaga and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 Principal Yalitza Torres, Principal of the Annex Lyle Mosely, and Vice Principal Christine Casserly.

Mr. Monteiro introduced fourth through eighth grade students from George Washington Academy School No. 1 who performed *America the Beautiful* by Samuel A. Ward, words by Katharine Lee Bates. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 who performed *What I Am* by Will I Am. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro stated that our special guests from George Washington Academy School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 requested that several of their staff members present testimonials. Mr. Monteiro introduced Lizzie Belvin-Flowers who has been working in the district for thirty-five years.

Mrs. Lizzie Belvin-Flowers stated that she has been working in the district more than thirty-five years and has taught at George Washington Academy for thirty-five years. Mrs. Belvin-Flowers stated that she is honored and thrilled to be assigned to the new Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9. Mrs. Belvin-Flowers stated that change has come at the right time for our students and quoted President Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." Mrs. Belvin-Flowers stated that she knows we will continue to inspire our students to achieve excellence with the launch of our new academy.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mrs. Belvin-Flowers and stated that Elizabeth hosted the African-American Heritage Parade and congratulated Mrs. Belvin-Flowers who was recognized as one of the most phenomenal women in the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he met Mrs. Jane Tierney last week while visiting Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 and was taken back by her spirit and her love and passion for teaching. Mr. Monteiro introduced Jane Tierney who has been working in the district for 27 years.

Ms. Jane Tierney stated that she has been working in the district 27 years with 26 years at George Washington School No. 1 and is presently working at the Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9. Mrs. Tierney stated that the culture has changed, the teachers are inspired, the students are not just students, they are scholars, and the leadership is empowering. Mrs. Tierney stated that

this year seems magical and there is such a positive vibe at Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9. Mrs. Tierney stated that she is experiencing such positive interactions with her colleagues, with administrators, and her scholars.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are so excited about this energy and excitement coming from both George Washington School No. 1 Academy and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9. Mr. Monteiro introduced Joshua Solomon, teacher at George Washington Academy School No. 1.

Mr. Joshua Solomon stated that he has been a teacher in the district for four years at George Washington School No. 1. Mr. Solomon stated that this year there are so many positive things it is hard to keep it short enough for tonight. Mr. Solomon stated that at George Washington Academy there is a lot of real teaching and real learning taking place. Mr. Solomon stated that our students are all engaged and asking questions and there is a positive feeling everywhere you turn in our building. Mr. Solomon stated that staff members are all on board with the new restructured school and our students are excited about what is to come in the school year. Mr. Solomon stated that he is excited about the possibility that he can accomplish so much in this school year and in many years to come. Mr. Solomon stated that they are excited about the technology focus at George Washington Academy School No.1 and they are excited to have a principal who has a positive long term vision for their school. Mr. Solomon stated that in his years at George Washington Academy he has always entered the school year with new plans of implementing new forward thinking teaching styles and methods and this year he has the same visions and aspirations and he believes he will set out to do everything he wants to do. Mr. Solomon stated that most importantly he is excited to be a part of George Washington Academy and the beauty is that they have the environment, team support, and technology that they need in order to achieve greatness. Mr. Solomon stated that it is with excitement that he watches the George Washington School disappear and reappear as the George Washington Academy because we are going to be a great school achieving at a high level.

Mr. Monteiro thanked him for his comments. Mr. Monteiro introduced Ms. Allison Mednick, teacher at George Washington Academy.

Ms. Allison Mednick stated that she has worked in the district for 13 years at George Washington School No. 1 and so far it has been her best year of teaching. Ms. Mednick commended the administration for implementing many changes that have positively affected our students this year and the tone was set by Dr. Pedro Noguero who shared his philosophy on teaching. Ms. Mednick stated that this year administration implemented schoolwide character education which will give our students tips not only to succeed in school but in the world. Ms. Mednick stated that they have also focused on including the parents more. Ms. Mednick stated that for example on the first day of school Principal Ziobro and Vice Principal Wansaw greeted the parents and children and provided them with their child's classroom number and encouraged parents to walk with their children to their classroom and meet the teachers. Ms. Mednick stated that this eliminated first day confusion outside the school and allowed the parents to have a meaningful conversation with the teachers and see where their children will be spending their day. Ms. Mednick stated that simple changes such as this one which have been made possible due to the reduction in size of the school have led to greater organization and more collaboration among teachers, staff, and administration. Ms. Mednick stated that the teachers feel the support of the administrators, reading and math coaches and the Board of Education and they appreciate that in the first week of school they were visited by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and many administrators. Ms. Mednick stated that George Washington Academy is filled with positive energy from administration through the teachers and on to the students and there is pride in being part of George Washington Academy.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments. Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for coming tonight and those who gave testimonials. Mr. Monteiro stated that means the world to us and

more so to the students and the parents. Mr. Monteiro stated that they said it couldn't be done and it is being done. Mr. Monteiro stated that the energy, passion, dedication, and determination is there and it is incredible. Mr. Monteiro stated that the possibilities are endless and the entire Board of Education thanks them and what they are doing is remarkable.

Mr. Monteiro stated that it is remarkable how many administrators came to the meeting tonight and thanked them for their passion and dedication.

Mr. Monteiro introduced Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director of Groundwork Elizabeth, and Christopher Rodriguez, representative from Meadowlink and Safe Routes to Schools Assistant Coordinator for Union County.

Mr. Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director of Groundwork Elizabeth, stated that they applied for and were awarded a federal grant to identify Safe Routes to Schools in the Elizabethport neighborhood with a walkability study for students in George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1, Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, John Marshall School No. 20, and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28.

Mr. Christopher Rodriguez, Safe Routes to Schools Assistant Coordinator for Union County, stated that they are interested in working with our schools to create safe passages for walking and biking in Elizabethport. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Board and the administrators for their time listening to the program for Safe Routes to Schools and is looking forward to working with them on this project.

Mr. Monteiro thanked them for coming tonight and for the great work they do for the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he walked here tonight and thanked his colleagues for bringing the meeting to Elizabethport as he often doesn't have a chance to walk to the meetings. Mr. Trujillo stated that he never thought that this day would come. Mr. Trujillo stated that he was elected in 2007 for the first time and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 was not built yet. Mr. Trujillo stated that there is a lot of need in this neighborhood and the community is very loving, accepts change, and wants to do good things. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are not any different from any other community and want the best for our children. Mr. Trujillo stated that the fact is that now we have addressed probably the biggest problem that faced education in the Elizabethport, which was School No. 1 and the mere size of the school. Mr. Trujillo stated that he had many conversations with the previous superintendent about the need to address School No. 1 although there were other priorities and the time wasn't right. Mr. Trujillo stated that, just as Mrs. Belvin-Flowers said earlier, the time is right now and we finally made it and he is so happy to see that we are heading in the right direction. Mr. Trujillo stated that now we have two great new academies with great leadership, great staff, and an incredible amount of energy that it is going to take to achieve excellence in those schools. Mr. Trujillo stated that he can feel the buzz in the neighborhood when he walks and talks with the parents and they ask him questions about what is planned ahead for these academies and they are excited. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is excited and he is really happy that finally the day has come. Mr. Trujillo stated that he didn't think we would get here because it is just so hard sometimes and this is such a big district with so many needs. Mr. Trujillo stated that he looks at some of the faces of the educators and they all love what they do and they do it with so much passion and it is going to show in the end result. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is really excited and thanked them for choosing School No. 1 and School No. 9. Mr. Trujillo stated that people come to him and say they don't want to be at this school or that school and he has not heard that from anyone at School No. 1 or School No. 9 and that means they want to be there and that is a big deal. Mr. Trujillo thanked them and wished them a great school year.

Mr. Monteiro introduced Board members to present special recognitions for Stars of Excellence.

Mr. Neron recognized two students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy who earned gold medals at the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics of New Jersey including James Morris, tenth grade student, for the instrumental/classical performance category and Azana Crawley, eleventh grade student, for the playwright category. Mr. Neron stated that ACT-SO is a program by the NAACP which is often referred to as the “Olympics of the Mind” and seeks to promote positive self-esteem, positive interaction between our youth and the adult professional community, positive academic and artistic excellence, and high academic and cultural achievement. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo recognized three students from Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy who were selected to the Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir including Gabby Gomes, eleventh grade; Ziasia Blaine, twelfth grade; and Aaliyah Atwood, Class of 2014 graduate. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir consists of 40 to 50 singers/dancers and is an audition based exhibition show choir that stems from the Paper Mill Playhouse’s award-winning Art Education and Outreach Program.

Mr. González recognized Alexandra Gonzalez, twelfth grade student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who is the only student in New Jersey to be awarded the John S. Martinez Leadership Scholarship of \$3,000. designed to help Hispanic high school students achieve educational success and was one of only 11 Hispanic public high school students throughout America to be awarded this scholarship. Mr. González and Board members congratulated Alexandra Gonzalez and presented her with a plaque of commemoration.

Ms. Bathelus recognized 17 schools that were among 698 schools in the United States to be awarded the Let’s Move Active Schools National Recognition including Winfield Scott School No. 2, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Joseph Battin School No. 4, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, iPrep Academy School No. 8, Elmora School No. 12, Madison Monroe School No. 16, John Marshall School No. 20, Victor Mravlag School No. 21, Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Elizabeth High School, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Leadership Academy, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Ms. Bathelus and Board members congratulated the principals of each school and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina recognized Bryant Hernandez-Condemarin, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, who was accepted into the Music Advancement Program at the prestigious Julliard School. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated Bryant Hernandez-Condemarin and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Fajardo recognized the efforts of a member of our operations team Head Custodian Ken Sugzda from George Washington Academy School No. 1 for his diligence and hard work for the successful opening of George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9. Mr. Fajardo and Board members congratulated Ken Sugzda and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Ken Sugzda thanked the Board for the honor and stated that he has worked for the district for 27 years and the last 7 years have been at George Washington School No. 1. Mr. Sugzda stated that this award belongs to all of the custodians for their hard work to open George Washington School No. 1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9.

Mr. Monteiro recognized former Board member Stefano Calella who was present.

Mr. González stated that the Board of Education is going green and on the night of the Board meeting the public agenda will be available online at 6:00 p.m. Mr. González stated that for the months of October and November there will be paper copies of the agenda but starting in December the agenda will be online only.

The Board went into recess at 8:45 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

Present: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Absent: None

Board President Monteiro 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.”

Mr. Monteiro called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, stated that she is the mother of two special needs children and spoke about special needs children.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments. Mr. Monteiro called upon the next public participant, Danette Torres, to address the Board.

Danette Torres, 539 Grier Avenue, spoke about special needs children.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments. Mr. Monteiro requested Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenio to report back with the status of this matter.

Mr. Monteiro called upon the next public participant, Don Lorenz, to address the Board.

Don Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special needs.

Mr. Monteiro thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mr. Monteiro declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the minutes of the meeting of August 28, 2014 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for the Month of July 2014

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira (abstain- M.P.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated Brigida Robles on her retirement after having worked over 30 years in our district and wished all the retirees a happy and healthy retirement.

Supplemental Personnel Report – Leave of Absence, etc.

Mr. Fajardo requested Page No. 3 be held for discussion in private session.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table Page No. 3.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the amended report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Tuition Report

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

Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is a Somerset Hills School listed on the last page of the report and he wants to be sure that this is not the same school that used to be in Warren, N.J.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that it is not the same school.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved with a waiver of all fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

RESCINDED – see below

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina (abstain- Club Valley Soccer School, N.J. Galaxy Soccer Academy, America's United Soccer Academy), Messrs. Fajardo, Neron (abstain- request from Dept. of Health and Human Services), Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Abstain: Messrs. González, Rodriguez – 2

Negative: None

Mr. González stated that he would like to rescind this vote and discuss it in private session.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he agrees with Mr. González that he wants to discuss this in private session.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to rescind the vote on the Use of Facilities and table the report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to table this report and discuss it in private.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. González, to table this report.

The motion to table this report was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that the first report will be presentation of the 2013-2014 Assessment of Teaching and Learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Amy Gil to present the report.

Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Amy Gil stated that tonight she is presenting the 2013-2014 Assessment of Teaching and Learning. Mrs. Gil stated that our newly revised core beliefs and commitments state that we believe teachers make a positive difference in student achievement and a major contributing factor is the teaching that happens every day in every classroom. Mrs. Gil stated that our vision is that we will be one of the best school systems

in America and our mission is that we will provide excellent educational experiences and services to inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care. Mrs. Gil read an anonymous quote, “The road to excellence is paved with persistence, determination, and hard work.” Mrs. Gil stated that it is our duty to ensure that our students understand that.

Mrs. Gil stated that the early childhood data is based on environment as opposed to student performance and reflects the quality of our preschool classrooms both in-district as well as at our contracted community provider sites. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation instrument designed to measure the quality of interactions between children and teachers and does not account for any structural features of the classroom environment and instead only focuses on the interactions that teachers have with students. Mrs. Gil stated that CLASS measures interactions by way of 10 distinct dimensions which are grouped into three overarching domains including emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support. Mrs. Gil stated that in the 2013-2014 school year, we used the CLASS to replace the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-R). Mrs. Gil stated that the overall average score for the first CLASS is 5.27. Mrs. Gil stated that the next preschool classroom assessment is the Supports for Early Literacy Assessment (SELA) which measures the quality of supports for young children's language and literacy development specifically focusing on print awareness, interest in reading and writing, oral language development and phonological awareness. Mrs. Gil stated that SELA is measured on a 5 point scale with 1 being low quality and 5 being high quality. Mrs. Gil stated that during the 2013-2014 school year, the district-wide average for SELA was 4.78 which was a 38% increase from 2005 and reflective of a high quality preschool program that supports language and literacy development. Mrs. Gil stated that the Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory (PCMI) measures the quality of mathematic instruction in the preschool classroom focusing more specifically on classroom practices involving numeracy, geometry, measurement, problem solving, and other mathematical concepts. Mrs. Gil stated that the PCMI is measured on a 5 point scale with 1 being low quality and 5 being high quality. Mrs. Gil stated that during the 2013-2014 school year, the district-wide average for PCMI was 4.75 which is a 71% increase from 2005 and reflective of a high quality preschool program that supports mathematics instruction.

Mrs. Gil stated that beginning in kindergarten and continuing through second grade, students are administered the TerraNova assessment which measures student performance in the areas of reading/language arts and mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that a comparison of results from the 2012 to the 2014 kindergarten TerraNova reflects that our scores have dropped for reading and have increased in mathematics with 90% of students in the 41st percentile or above. Mrs. Gil stated that the 41st percentile is our indicator of students performing on grade level for the TerraNova. Mrs. Gil stated that a comparison of results from the 2012 to the 2014 first grade TerraNova again reflects that our scores have dropped for reading and have increased to 86% of students on or above grade level in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that a comparison of results from the 2012 to the 2014 second grade TerraNova reflects that our students remained flat in both reading and mathematics with more than 70% of students on or above grade level for reading and more than 80% of students on or above grade level for mathematics.

Mrs. Gil explained that the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge has transitioned over the last couple of years from the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards to the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Gil stated that the Common Core State Standards are aligned with college and work expectations, are clear and understandable, include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills, build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards, are informed by other top performing countries so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society, and are evidence based. Mrs. Gil stated that there is a lot of attention in the media about the Common Core State Standards and their appropriateness but little of that controversy is here in New Jersey because the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards were among the most rigorous state standards in the nation. Mrs. Gil stated that therefore, as we move toward the common core, we have a smaller gap to bridge than many other states.

Mrs. Gil stated that the NJ ASK results for grades 3 through 8 include a one year comparison and a longitudinal comparison back to 2008 or 2009 depending on the year the

NJDOE changed the scoring standards. Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 3 there was a slight dip in language arts and consistent performance in mathematics from 2013 to 2014 and since 2009 there has been a relatively flat performance in grade 3. Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 4 there was a slight decrease in language arts and mathematics from 2013 to 2014 and since 2009 language arts has remained flat and there has been an 8% increase in mathematics achievement. Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 5 there was a slight increase in mathematics from 2013 to 2014 and since 2008 language arts has remained flat and there has been a 6% increase in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 6 there was a slight increase in language arts and relatively flat performance in mathematics from 2013 to 2014 and since 2008 there have been huge increases with 56% increase in language arts and 33% increase in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 7 there was a slight increase in mathematics and relatively flat performance in language arts from 2013 to 2014 and since 2008 there was an increase of 12% for language arts and 17% increase for mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that in grade 8 there was a 7% increase in mathematics from 2013 to 2014 and since 2008 there was a 19% increase in language arts and 68% increase in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that science is only assessed on the NJ ASK in grades 4 and 8 and in grade 4 we are holding steady at 80% and a slight increase in grade 8 from 2013 to 2014. Mrs. Gil stated that it is important to note that the Common Core State Standards are not applicable to science. Mrs. Gil stated that the Next Gen Science Standards have just been approved and therefore are not evident in the NJ ASK. Mrs. Gil stated that the science scores have increased significantly since 2005 with 43% increase in grade 4 and 45% increase in grade 8.

Mrs. Gil stated that in high school there is a break from state assessments until grade 11. Mrs. Gil stated that as a district the NJPASS exams are administered to all students in grades 9 and 10 to assess their mathematics and language art skills in order to prepare them for the HSPA. Mrs. Gil stated that the grade 9 NJPASS scores have increased significantly over the last 6 years with 26% increase in language arts and 67% increase in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that the grade 10 NJPASS scores also have increased significantly over the last 6 years with 29% increase in language arts and 51% increase in mathematics.

Mrs. Gil stated that the High School Proficiency Assessment is required by the State of New Jersey for students to graduate from high school and also used to report school performance. Mrs. Gil stated that the students take the HSPA for the first time in grade 11. Mrs. Gil stated that the HSPA scores have increased significantly with 50% increase in language arts and 32% increase in mathematics from 2005 to 2014. Mrs. Gil stated that students have three opportunities to pass the HSPA and banking represents the number of students who pass after first three administrations of the HSPA beginning with the initial administration in grade 11. Mrs. Gil explained the 2013 cohort with the first administration of the HSPA in grade 11 in March 2013 and any students who did not pass were able to take the exam in those subjects in October 2013, and any students who still did not earn passing scores had another opportunity to take the HSPA in March 2014. Mrs. Gil stated that our banked HSPA scores have increased significantly since 2005 with an increase of 24% in language arts and an increase of 36% in mathematics.

Mrs. Gil compared our data to similar urban district in New Jersey and stated that District Factor Groups (DFG) were developed by the New Jersey Department of Education to compare student achievement between districts that have similar characteristics. Mrs. Gil stated that the District Factor Groups are determined based on information gathered during the most recent census including the education levels of the city residents, employment rate, median family income, and rate of poverty. Mrs. Gil stated that Elizabeth is in the DFG A and DFG A has 39 districts including Newark, Paterson, and Camden. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 3 NJ ASK the Elizabeth Public Schools outperform the DFG A in language arts by 11 points and mathematics by 9 points. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 4 NJ ASK the Elizabeth Public Schools outperform the DFG A by 9 points in language arts and 13 points in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 5 NJ ASK the Elizabeth Public Schools outperform the DFG A in language arts by 7 points and by 13 points in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 6 NJ ASK the Elizabeth Public Schools' scores continue the trend outperforming DFG A in language arts by 11 points and mathematics by 15 points. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 7 NJ ASK the Elizabeth Public Schools' scores have also increased compared to DFG A by 13 points in language arts and 15 points in mathematics. Mrs. Gil stated that the trend continues in Grade 8 with the Elizabeth Public Schools outperforming

DFG A in language arts by 12 points and mathematics by 15 points. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 4 and Grade 8 NJ ASK the Elizabeth Public Schools' science scores outperformed DFG A by 7 points in grade 4 and 11 points in grade 8. Mrs. Gil stated that in Grade 11 2014 HSPA the Elizabeth Public Schools' scores have also outperformed DFG A in language arts by 7 points and mathematics by 9 points. Mrs. Gil quoted Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Mrs. Gil displayed a photo and stated that these are our children graduating for high school this past June and the future belongs to them and their beautiful dreams.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mrs. Gil for the informative presentation.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Mrs. Gil for the presentation and asked if we can start adding SAT data for our district in successive years. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would like the public to know that we are in a very heavy testing environment and that is for all of New Jersey and our students should not just be seen as a test score but are succeeding in many other things that are not measured in this and we are improving which is great. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we celebrate our students' achievements not just in tests.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that there are a lot of accommodations and modifications for special needs students. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that with the new PARCC testing there will be accommodations and modifications for those students in special education programs. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that the accommodations and modifications are imbedded in the IEP and are followed.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next report will be the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Self-Assessment report and introduced Ms. Eunice Couselo, Anti-Bullying Coordinator to present the report.

Ms. Eunice Couselo, Anti-Bullying Coordinator, stated that we are here for a presentation on how we are assessing our performance under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. Ms. Couselo stated that, as you can see on our website, we are a No Bully Zone and that is important to know because we believe that every child has the right to go to school and learn no matter what size, shape, color, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, financial background that he or she has. Ms. Couselo stated that every child should feel that he or she fits in in the school and that he or she is cherished at the school.

Ms. Couselo stated that when the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights came into being in 2011 the Commissioner at that point decided that each school and district had to grade itself in the efforts to implement the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. Ms. Couselo stated that the grades are based on the self-assessment completed by each school last year, sent to the Department of Education in June and the Department of Education released the scores officially in March 2014 to see where we are as compared to everyone else.

Ms. Couselo stated that the rubric was designed to be a growth model and to be used to enhance programs at schools and districts and consists of eight core elements and twenty-six indicators with each indicator having a score of zero to three points. Ms. Couselo explained that the first core element deals with programs, approaches, and initiatives and whether they are designed to create a better school climate. Ms. Couselo stated that the second core element is training on our policy and includes looking at who we have to train, making sure our policy includes the protected classes under the law, and that we discuss the policy with students in an age appropriate manner. Ms. Couselo stated that the third core element is about staff instruction and training programs and there is a requirement in the law that in every five year cycle certified staff have to get two hours of HIB training and two hours of suicide training. Ms. Couselo stated that the Anti-Bullying Specialists have to be able to meet with the Anti-Bullying Coordinator during school time and to be able to receive training during that time. Ms. Couselo stated that we have to be able to provide professional development to the school safety team which is a group that oversees the process at each school and that school leaders have also received the appropriate

information. Ms. Couselo stated that the fourth core element is curriculum and instruction and although it does not have a lot of indicators within this core element it is important because it is assessing how the school is providing appropriate instruction within the curriculum and whether the school and district are observing the Week of Respect which is the first full week in October. Ms. Couselo stated that the fifth core element is regarding HIB required personnel and whether there is an Anti-Bullying Specialist in the school and we go beyond the requirement by also appointing an Alternate Anti-Bullying Specialist in each school. Ms. Couselo stated that it assesses whether we met the minimum requirement of meetings which we do and surpass and that the school safety team met in the appropriate manner. Ms. Couselo stated that the sixth core element is whether we have implemented the district's procedure for reporting HIB and all the required elements that go along with it and whether we have the procedure to put in new information into older cases. Ms. Couselo stated that the seventh core element is our actual procedure and this deals a lot with timelines and did we meet all the timelines including doing investigations within ten days, sending it to the superintendent within the next two days, did the board vote on it, and other timelines. Ms. Couselo stated that the last core element is HIB reporting and is there a system for our staff to report things. Ms. Couselo stated that now we are using the HIBster system which is an electronic system to record and everything has become smoother. Mrs. Couselo stated that they just added a new requirement that asks if we posted all of our HIB assessment scores on the website. Ms. Couselo stated that our HIB assessment scores are on the main website and each individual school website.

Ms. Couselo explained the scoring and that zero is for not meeting the requirements, 1 is for partially meeting the requirements, 2 is for meeting all the requirements which is where everyone should be, and 3 is for exceeding the requirements. Ms. Couselo stated that to meet and exceed the requirement there are a lot of indicators on the rubric that the school has to meet. Ms. Couselo stated that she has instructed the schools that since this requires documentation if they do not have the documentation for whatever the requirement is then they cannot give themselves the points. Ms. Couselo stated that even though they may say that they did it if they cannot prove it and do not have the documentation then they have to give themselves the lower points.

Ms. Couselo stated that the highest possible score is 78 which means that every indicator was scored a 3 and they have exceeded every indicator. Ms. Couselo stated that a score of 52 means all of the indicators were met. Ms. Couselo stated that our schools this year ranged from 44 to 60, 25 schools scored 50 or more which is the majority of our schools and one school scored 60 and the remaining scored in the 40s. Ms. Couselo stated that the average score across all the schools which in turn becomes the district score is 51.3. Ms. Couselo stated that this is 6 points higher from the last assessment and all the schools have gone up and therefore the district average has gone up.

Ms. Couselo stated that there is a process that is required by the State and this presentation is part of that process. Ms. Couselo stated that before the end of June each school completed their self-assessment with the school safety team taking the lead. Ms. Couselo stated that they input their information into the NJ DOE website and we reviewed it to make sure it was complete. Ms. Couselo stated that tonight we are presenting the results to the public. Ms. Couselo stated that the Board members will have the opportunity tonight to vote to approve the self-assessment. Ms. Couselo stated that although the information is in the NJ DOE website it is not official until after the Board takes action. Ms. Couselo stated that after the Board takes action, the Superintendent will give assurances that are required by the State and then we will submit the report. Ms. Couselo stated that the deadline is September 30th for everyone.

Ms. Couselo explained a chart showing the results of each school and scores of 50 or 51 is where the schools want to be showing that they are meeting the requirements of the law. Ms. Couselo stated that compared to last year the schools have gone up and this is a growth model which means that these scores are important because we can see where we need to improve. Ms. Couselo stated that we have improved and we continue to improve.

Ms. Couselo stated that the highlights of our work to date include an annual Week of Respect, sending children to the Liberty Basketball Anti-Bullying Day, a lot of district training for our team members, State training for the Anti-Bullying Coordinator, and a wide variety of

guest speakers who address different aspects of anti-bullying at the schools. Ms. Couselo stated that this past year we used the HIBster reporting system which streamlines everything.

Ms. Couselo stated that the work ahead of us is to analyze self-assessments by school and that we have been analyzing the data from the schools since last year. Ms. Couselo stated that the schools have been determining the areas which need improvement and what they need to improve upon and to focus on those areas so that in this growth model we improve on whatever their scores were last year. Ms. Couselo stated that at the Elizabeth Public Schools it is everyone's job to Say No to Bullying. Ms. Couselo asked if there were any questions and if there was anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Ms. Couselo for her informative report. Mr. Monteiro asked if we have seen HIB diminishing because of all the requirements that we are doing now.

Ms. Couselo responded yes and stated that we do a lot of investigations but doing a lot of investigations does not mean that we have rampant bullying going on in our schools. Ms. Couselo stated that it means that we take the law seriously and we investigate everything. Ms. Couselo stated that a high number of investigations is a good number and to her it means that Elizabeth is meeting the requirements of the law probably more so than other districts and more than other districts in the State of New Jersey. Ms. Couselo stated that if you compare the statistics of all the districts we have more investigations than they do and if a really big district only did 30 investigations then that tells her that they are not following the requirements to the letter of the law. Ms. Couselo stated that she is proud of the number of investigations that we do. Ms. Couselo stated that the rate of HIB over the last 3 years has gone down and the previous assessment we did for the 2012-2013 school year we had a 33% rate of confirmed cases which is not bad for a big district. Ms. Couselo stated that this year we have a 17.5% rate of confirmed cases which is almost half of what it was and she thinks it is due to the education of parents, students, and staff. Ms. Couselo stated that although some of the numbers are alarming they are alarming in a good way.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Ms. Couselo for clarifying that and stated that here at the Elizabeth Board of Education we take these incidents all very seriously. Mr. Monteiro stated that people can misconstrue the information and we may appear to have more cases but that is because this district and Ms. Couselo and her team are doing an outstanding job of investigating all incidents. Mr. Monteiro stated that he wants all our parents here and watching at home to know that we take every single incident very seriously here at the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mr. González thanked Ms. Couselo for her informative report and her meticulous reporting of investigations. Mr. Gonzalez stated that they appreciate it and the parents appreciate the work they are doing. Mr. Gonzalez stated that Ms. Couselo is following the law very strictly and a lot of times they go above and beyond what is required. Mr. Gonzalez thanked Ms. Couselo for her efforts in educating everyone in the district.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer thanked Ms. Couselo for the report.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last report includes highlights from InsideEPS beginning with the article *Elizabeth Schools Open Two New Themed Educational Academies* and two new academies were opened on September 8th with over 26,000 students attending classes at 35 schools throughout the City of Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 serves as a smaller learning academy with its own educational theme and is led by Principal Anthony Ziobro and Vice Principals Mike Wansaw and Early Childhood Vice Principal Marlene Oliva-Hasegawa. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the new Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 is led by Principal Yalitza Torres and Vice Principals Christine Casserly and Lyle Moseley. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that both schools have a new instructional theme, distinctive new uniforms, and will also be outfitted with new laptops for every child in grades 3 through 8. Mrs.

Hugelmeyer stated that the Jerome Dunn Academy bears the name of an extraordinary leader who has dedicated his lifetime to the development and education of our children and his educational legacy will continue to display itself in the lives this school impacts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our administration will work closely together with our Board to ensure that we provide the necessary resources and supports helping to put the new George Washington Academy and Jerome Dunn Academy on a path of helping every child to achieve excellence.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is the *Focus on the District's Next Level of Work Equity, Expectations, and Excellence Lecture Features Renowned NYU Professor Pedro Noguera*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on September 5, 2014 the Elizabeth Public Schools held a professional development training event at the Dunn Sports Center pertaining to the district's next level of work, Equity, Expectations, and Excellence (EEE). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the session featured keynote speaker Pedro Noguera, Professor of Education at New York University. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Dr. Noguera is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which social and economic conditions as well as local, regional and global demographic trends influence the performance and operation of schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Dr. Noguera spoke to instructional team members about the components of the district's next level of work while incorporating central themes from his upcoming book, "Excellence through Equity" into his lecture. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the administrators institute this year we presented our next level of work outlining how the district will move forward to achieve the mission and vision of the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS is Recognized by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, which is founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation and partners with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, recognized 6 schools for transforming into healthier places for students and staff. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Elmora School No. 12, Madison-Monroe School No. 16, and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy have earned a Silver Recognition Award and Joseph Battin School No. 4, iPrep Academy School No. 8, and Victor Mravlag School No. 21 have earned a Bronze Recognition Award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a representative from each school traveled to Washington, D.C., courtesy of the Alliance, to receive the award at the conference held September 12-14 and former President Bill Clinton delivered the keynote address. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all 32 Elizabeth Public Schools that were eligible have now received Healthy School Awards and we are the first school district in New Jersey to have all schools receive recognition. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to earn the National Recognition Award these schools improved their nutrition services and physical activity programs to meet or exceed stringent standards set by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Joe Przytula, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Safety, for his continued success in helping our schools attain this recognition.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Develops Partnership with the Drumthwacket Foundation*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Drumthwacket Foundation's mission is to increase a sense of pride in New Jersey by expanding civic understanding amongst New Jerseyans and that is why the Elizabeth Public Schools was fully prepared to join in a partnership with this illustrious organization to promote New Jersey pride in history, civics, and culture. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this past year the commitment of the Foundation was exemplified by the development of an online learning module *Eureka! Invention & Innovation in New Jersey* to provide resources and guidance to fourth grade teachers leading students toward meeting or exceeding targeted NJ social studies and English language arts standards that are now available for piloting within our Elizabeth school district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Michelle Delbene, teacher at Charles Hudson School No. 25, worked on the module and quoted Robyn Brenner, Executive Director for the Drumthwacket Foundation, "has done an outstanding job in helping the project come to fruition." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the online learning module will be available to all districts in the State of New Jersey in the Fall 2015.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that next is the *Elizabeth Educator Selected to Participate in Advanced Placement Program Reading*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Paul Gruber was selected to participate in the College Board's Annual AP Reading in AP Calculus. Mrs. Hugelmeyer

stated that each June Advanced Placement teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather in the United States to evaluate and score the free-response sections of the AP exams and during the June 2014 scoring sessions more than 12,500 AP Readers evaluate more than 4.2 million AP exams. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this year there were approximately 970 readers for the AP Calculus exam to read over 407,000 exams. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that AP Readers are high school (50%) and college (50%) educators who represent many of the world's leading academic institutions and the AP Reading is a unique forum in which an academic dialogue between educators is both fostered and encouraged. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that of the 970 readers only 94 were first time newly invited readers and Paul Gruber was one of the 47 high school teachers who were selected from the national pool for this honor. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Advance Placement Program enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both while still in high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through AP courses in 34 subjects each culminating in a rigorous exam students learn to analyze complex problems, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue and skills that prepare them for college and beyond. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *Schools Receive Let's Move! Active Schools National Recognition Award from White House*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a number of Elizabeth schools received a congratulatory letter from First Lady Michelle Obama in recognition of outstanding leadership and exemplary efforts in creating an active school environment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that these schools were rewarded for helping develop healthy habits in students which they will carry into adulthood in addition to establishing a firm commitment to stand against childhood obesity. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Let's Move! Active Schools is a program launched by the First Lady to offer schools and parents the support needed to challenge students to be active and lead healthy lifestyles every day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that schools are striving to increase the amount of minutes of fitness activity within the school day and programs such as Hoops for Heart, Jam a Minute, and Walk Across America will allow students to collectively beat a stagnant lifestyle. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are proud of the accomplishments of students who continue to strive to be healthier.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *Teach to One* and Joel Rose, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of New Classrooms provided an early look at Teach to One results for the 2013-2014 school year said, "An independent evaluation of all schools in the Teach to One network by Doug Ready, Associate Professor at Columbia University's Teacher College, found that students achieved gains that exceeded the national average by 47%. In other words, students learned the equivalent of nearly 1.5 years' worth of math in a single year." Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that according to Joel Rose this represents a sizable improvement over our already strong first-year results which saw students gain on average 1.2 times the national average and that in 2013-2014 the achievement gains in 11 of 15 of our partner schools were significantly above average. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the data from Teach to One indicates that students made significant gains across all grade levels, racial groups, and student designations including English language learners and special education and Hispanic and African American students gained 1.4 times the national average. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she along with Joel Rose want to personally thank our iPrep Academy School No. 8 team who worked hard over the past year to implement Teach to One and drive these incredible results.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *Hamilton Prep Students are Beating the Odds*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was ranked No. 31 on Newsweek's "Beating the Odds 2014 Top Schools for Low-Income Students" rankings. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in a ranking system introduced by Newsweek for the first time in 2014 this list sought to recognize schools that beat the odds, performing better than statistically expected for their level of poverty. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that schools were ranked based on college preparation in correlation with students' socio-economic background. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy ranked No. 31 on the list backed by commendable student performance indicators including a 97.89 college readiness score, 86.82%

graduation rate, and 93.48% students reported as college bound despite having an 84.8% student poverty level. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was the second highest ranking New Jersey school on the list and ahead of schools including McNair Academy in Jersey City, Science High in Newark, and High Tech High School in North Bergen. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools has placed a high priority on preparing students for postsecondary education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that over the past several years Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy has worked diligently to create an academic environment that inspires students to push the limits of their potential and seize the promising opportunities that lie before them. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is excited for the students and team members at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy that their hard work is being recognized at the national level.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is *EPS Will Present This Year at the Rutgers Literacy Conference*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our district's Bilingual Program will be showcased at this year's Literacy Conference held at Rutgers University. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was invited to present as a result of the glowing recommendation of Fred Carrigg, former Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Urban Literacy, who was quoted stating that "Elizabeth went.....from one of the least successful models, Elizabeth is now the best program in the State in my opinion and I have over 40 years of experience in the field." Mrs. Hugelmeyer quoted Lisette Calvo, Director of Bilingual/ESL, "this is the first step in showcasing our district's work and putting us on the path to becoming a Bilingual/ESL model district."

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last article is *Elizabeth's Amy Gil Participates in Roundtable at NJDOE*. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, was selected as one of five District Test Coordinators to participate in a roundtable discussion with the Assessment Coordinators for the New Jersey Department of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the discussion centered on the pilot districts' participation this past Spring in the administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Mrs. Gil for representing the Elizabeth Public Schools and providing such valuable input to the roundtable discussion that served as an opportunity to gather feedback and provide us with the necessary updates.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer for the reports. Mr. Monteiro thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for organizing the professional development training event on the Friday before school opened for several thousand staff members. Mr. Monteiro stated that the feedback he received is incredible and he hopes that we can do it again sometime in the near future.

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González (abstain-Panasonic Foundation Leadership Associates Program), Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, 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: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus – 1

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. Monteiro – 2

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 8

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

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

Mr. Monteiro requested that the contract with USA Architects be tabled.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table the contract with USA Architects.

Mr. Neron asked why the contract with Rutgers was rescinded.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the rescission of the contract.

The motion to table USA Architects was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo stated that the bids are advertised in the Star Ledger. Mr. Fajardo asked if at the beginning of the year do we approve in which papers we are advertising and if this paper is included.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes and this paper is included.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked if these went to bid before the contracts were awarded.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes for the construction contracts.

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 7

Abstain: Messrs. Perreira, Monteiro – 2

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked about the award of contracts and when we do go to bid can the Board get a copy of the companies that bid for these contracts.

Mr. Kennedy explained that when the Board originally awards the contracts all the bid information is included on the award of contract report.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they are allowed to change the order and these are increases. Mr. Rodriguez asked if there is a certain percentage before we would have to go back out to bid and if there is a threshold.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there is a threshold.

Resolution – School Violence Awareness Week

The resolution was read by Mr. Perreira.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Anti-Bullying Week of Respect

The resolution was read by Ms. Bathelus.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Christopher Columbus Day

The resolution was read by Mr. Fajardo.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The resolution was read by Mr. González.

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Italian American Heritage Month

The resolution was read by Mr. Trujillo.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Mr. Fajardo stated that he would like to table this resolution and the Resolution for Payment for Unused Vacation Days and discuss it in private.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolutions be tabled.

Mr. Neron asked why we are tabling this.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he asked to table this because there are pending legal matters for some of these cases and there are questions that need to be asked.

Mr. Neron asked if we are tabling this for discussion in private session.

Mr. Fajardo responded absolutely.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

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

Mr. Fajardo stated that he just wanted to be sure that there is no tax increase in this amount that we are requesting from the City.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the tax levy is the same for 2014-2015 as the previous year.

Mr. Fajardo asked Mr. Kennedy to clarify because he doesn't know exactly how the law works that even though we are allowed to increase it by 2% without taking it to a vote or being

accepted by the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that he saw something else in City Hall where they said there is no tax increase but there is a difference of \$8 million. Mr. Fajardo stated that he wants to make sure that we don't have that same situation here and asked Mr. Kennedy to explain.

Mr. Kennedy stated that you are allowed a tax levy increase of 2% but then you are also allowed increases in your pension contributions and your health benefit contribution. Mr. Kennedy stated that in our case we also had an enrollment increase so you can raise last year's taxes by 2% plus you are allowed to, if you wanted to, increase for pension contributions, health benefit contributions, and for enrollment increases. Mr. Kennedy stated that this Board decided not to take the allowability of those three items plus the allowability of the 2% and our tax levy is the same this year as it was last year.

Mr. Fajardo stated that the \$8 million dollars that there appears to be a difference in taxes from the City of Elizabeth, that it is \$143 million and this year it is \$8 million more. Mr. Fajardo stated that difference has nothing to do with the Board of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that he heard the City claiming that there was no tax increase but there is an \$8 million dollar difference.

Mr. Kennedy stated that last year their gross tax levy was \$133 million dollars and the tax levy they are proposing this year is \$141 million dollars.

Mr. Monteiro stated that was voted on in the last week or two and was the introduction of the budget.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it was introduced on two Tuesdays ago.

Mr. Monteiro stated that they say they had no tax increase. Mr. Monteiro asked if there is a tax increase or no tax increase.

Mr. Kennedy stated that last year the tax levy was \$133 million and the proposed tax levy this year is \$141 million dollars.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the proposed tax levy for this year on the introduction of their budget is \$141 million dollars.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it is in accordance with the schedule that is submitted as part of their budget.

Mr. Monteiro stated that is an \$8 million dollar difference.

Mr. Kennedy stated that from \$133 million dollars to \$141 million dollars is an \$8 million dollar increase.

Mr. Monteiro stated that on the video he saw on the computer the CFO for the City of Elizabeth, Tony Zengaro, told the Council and the City Council President asked him repeatedly and he said there was no tax increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that if there is an \$8 million dollar increase then that is a tax increase. Mr. Monteiro asked what our tax levy was last year for the Board of Education.

Mr. Kennedy stated that rounded our tax levy was \$52 million.

Mr. Monteiro asked what our tax levy is for this year.

Mr. Kennedy stated that we passed a budget for 14-15 with a tax levy of \$52 million so there is no increase in our tax levy.

Mr. Monteiro stated that there is no increase in our tax levy. Mr. Monteiro stated that \$52 million for last year and \$52 million for this year so there is no tax levy increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is confused because the City is saying there is no tax increase and they have an \$8 million dollar increase in their levy going from \$133 million last year to \$141 million this year.

Mr. Trujillo stated that there is no way that \$8 million dollars is an exception.

Mr. Kennedy stated that it is right in the documentation that they submitted as part of their introduced budget.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he remembers when this 2% cap came into play and part of it was that it would be an easy to read schedule and the towns would have to draft easy to read schedules. Mr. Trujillo stated that he saw their schedule and it appears to him that there is an \$8 million dollar tax increase in the levy overall. Mr. Trujillo stated that he believes that \$1.3 million was contractual increases that are not part of the 2%.

Mr. Kennedy stated that most of their increases were as a result of exceptions to the 2% which was an exception in the City's case for debt service, pension and health benefits, and also they are allowed an increase for increasing appraised valuations.

Mr. Trujillo stated that debt service is part of that as well. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have zero debt service.

Mr. Rodriguez asked why we are talking about City finances and stated that this is a Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it is an important question because we had a citizen here complain before, rightly so, that there was no tax increase and yet we have cut down on services such as bussing and several citizens spoke to him about that. Mr. Fajardo stated that he does recall that last year this Board of Education increased taxes and he was not a Board member at that time. Mr. Fajardo stated that the overall increase was 7% and he does recall Mr. Rodriguez saying that we had increased taxes and Mr. Rodriguez was part of the people from City Hall that said we had increased taxes 7% which was misleading. Mr. Fajardo stated that he just wanted to make sure that we are very clear this time that this Board of Education has nothing to do with the apparent tax increase that the City is claiming they are not increasing but yet there is a difference of \$8 million dollars. Mr. Fajardo asked, as a form of a motion, that we ask City Hall, Mr. Zengaro, and City Council, to please explain the difference in taxes from what they are saying this year to last year and explain the \$8 million dollars and what is the percentage of increase so the people of the City of Elizabeth understand very clearly that it has nothing to do with the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that is the importance of this conversation.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like to support this although he is skeptical that they will do any of that. Mr. Trujillo stated that if you remember he has been asking to have a town hall meeting or a summit on taxes because quite frankly it has become such a big issue in this town. Mr. Trujillo stated that they continue to ignore it and have no interest in sharing or discussing their tax levy. Mr. Trujillo stated that quite frankly he doesn't think they understand it and thinks they are voting and they have no idea what they are voting on as far as their budget and they have no clue what the numbers are or they are just plain lying. Mr. Trujillo stated that it doesn't take a genius to know that if you had a \$133 million tax levy the previous year and this current year is going to be \$141 million then there is an \$8 million increase and that is a tax increase. Mr. Trujillo stated that the reason we are discussing it is that we as a Board of Education do not directly tax the taxpayer and we are not a tax collecting agency. Mr. Trujillo stated that when you pay your taxes you pay them to the City of Elizabeth and they determine through that budget where the money goes. Mr. Trujillo stated that is why we have to request our share of that fund

because they manage that fund. Mr. Trujillo stated that is why we have to be clear on the numbers because apparently there is a discrepancy. Mr. Trujillo stated that he did not see the video but if he understands it correctly it is on the record that the CFO of the City of Elizabeth saying there isn't a tax increase and the President of City Council asking the question and it being answered as a \$0 tax increase. Mr. Trujillo stated that he calculates the tax increase as approximately a 6% tax increase over last year's budget which is significant and really high. Mr. Trujillo stated that maybe we should be getting some of that money so we can take care of some of the issues in education that we have been having a problem with and maybe the City wants to share some of that money and maybe they want to tell us where that money is going.

Mr. Fajardo made a motion to request a clarification from City Hall, Mr. Zengaro, and City Council to explain to the Board of Education, whether they choose to do so or not, so that we are very clear so in the future any tax levy that is increased whether it is by this Board of Education or the City of Elizabeth it cannot be misconstrued, misinterpreted or lied to the people. Mr. Fajardo stated that last year this Board of Education increased 2% and overall it was 7% with 5% by City Hall but yet City Hall was claiming we were raising taxes and that is why he is asking for that. Mr. Fajardo stated that this is why he is asking for that and a resolution for an official request from this Board of Education be made to City Hall, to the Mayor, to Mr. Zengaro, and to City Council to please explain the difference in the amount of taxes being collected this year versus last year and what is the difference in the \$8 million when they are saying there is no tax increase. Mr. Fajardo stated that very clearly it has nothing to do with this Board of Education.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to seek information on the tax levy from the City of Elizabeth.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the City has meetings every Tuesday and you are welcome to attend those public meetings and they have public participation right at the beginning so you don't have to wait too long to question your public officials there. Mr. Rodriguez stated that in past meetings we didn't like it when the City meddled their nose in our business yet it's kind of hypocritical to do it right back.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he has a concern and he doesn't have the information and asked Mr. Kennedy how he got the information that their introduced budget has an \$8 million difference and asked if it is online.

Mr. Kennedy responded that he has a copy of Schedule 3B from their introduced budget.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he is quite alarmed and concerned as Mr. Rodriguez is open to go to City Council. Mr. Monteiro stated that he did watch the video that is posted online and the video is clear and that is how he took it. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is sure that is how the Council members took it when Council President asked the CFO of the City if there is going to be a tax increase and he said there is no tax increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that he asked him two or three times and the video is the same video he watched and many watched. Mr. Monteiro stated that he doesn't know the numbers and can't speak on the numbers if that is the case and the tax levy may be, as Mr. Fajardo is saying, an \$8 million tax levy increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that if the budget for this year was still \$133 million then it would be a no tax increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that a comparison would be if Mr. Kennedy as Business Administrator told us, the Board of Education members, that there was no tax increase and that was not the case and what position would that put him in. Mr. Monteiro asked what position does that put Tony Zengaro in, the CFO of the City, who told City Council that there was no tax increase in the levy and there is. Mr. Monteiro stated that is a question for our attorney and asked Mr. Lehman if that is illegal or unethical.

Mr. Lehman stated that it could be and it could be that he just misled the Council.

Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Kennedy to provide the Board members with the introduction of the budget numbers.

Mr. Trujillo stated that this is just a repetition of what happened last year. Mr. Trujillo stated that the fiscal year finished at the end of June for the City and they should have passed their budget. Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately it is not like we have to do here where we have to provide our budget prior to school year starting and have it approved and there is a level of approval and we are held accountable by the State for doing this. Mr. Trujillo stated that the municipality isn't and what they are doing is kicking the can down the road and just pushing it off. Mr. Trujillo stated that last year Mr. Monteiro got his tax bill and he is a taxpayer and saw the 7% tax increase and you know it didn't come from here. Mr. Trujillo stated that the only difference is that we knew 2% was ours and we were responsible for 2%. Mr. Trujillo stated that when we raised our levy 2% the balance was on the City. Mr. Trujillo stated that when he got his tax bill last year he saw the increase and he knows it wasn't just the 2% from here but that it was significant. Mr. Trujillo stated that the City has kicked it off and proposed a temporary budget and are operating on a temporary budget. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are doing the same thing this year and the taxpayer won't get a bill this quarter with a tax increase this quarter but come the 1st Quarter he anticipates that \$8 million increase will be put in and that is what is going to hit you all over the head. Mr. Trujillo stated that he had an escrow shortage when he got his mortgage bill because they collect a certain amount and he owed more. Mr. Trujillo stated that obviously the State does not hold them to the same regulations that they hold the Board of Education where we actually have to have a budget on time. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are operating on a temporary budget.

Mr. Monteiro stated that it is real simple math. Mr. Monteiro stated that if they have a tax levy of \$133 million from last fiscal year and there is going to be no change for the next fiscal year then it is going to be no tax increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that if it increased by \$1 million, \$2 million, or \$8 million then that is a tax increase. Mr. Monteiro stated that if the CFO says there is no tax increase then he is going to take him at his word that there is no tax increase unless something has changed.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he knows the tax increase is there because the City, apart from all the debt service they have, has been operating in deficits.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we need to get the information because on the record and on the video the City Council President and the City Council voted on what they understood or believed to be information that was provided to them like what is being provided to us. Mr. Monteiro stated that they heard the same thing that there is no tax increase which means the levy didn't increase and didn't change. Mr. Monteiro stated that if that is the case then Mr. Zengaro has a serious problem because what Mr. Zengaro said to City Council is very serious and not to be discussed here but it is very serious.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it is important that certain members of the public have been making some comments and he wants to be sure that everyone understands that those of us who have lived in the City for a long time and those who have lived in the City who own property and are taxpayers are carrying a very tremendous burden. Mr. Fajardo stated that it is very, very difficult to pay for the taxes on the properties and it is not easy. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers last year that members of this Board of Education at the time of the election were claiming that we were raising taxes. Mr. Fajardo stated that last year this Board of Education was unfairly blamed for raising taxes 7% when in fact it was only 2% and the City raised it 5%. Mr. Fajardo stated that this year this Board of Education chose not to raise taxes one penny to avoid that situation and look what has occurred. Mr. Fajardo stated that we cut transportation, we cut parent liaisons, we cut secretaries, and he received a letter from a nurse that her aide was cut and the nurse attends to 250 hearing impaired students by herself and she cannot do it. Mr. Fajardo stated that it still has not been resolved. Mr. Fajardo stated that is the result of last year's claims

and now we cannot have it both ways. Mr. Fajardo stated that last year people claimed that we were raising taxes which we did 2% and were accused of 7% and this year we are not raising taxes. Mr. Fajardo stated that this is what we have to do and that is uncovering the lies and letting the sun shine in on the truth and to look at the results of what this Board of Education was forced to do this year because of political gains by some that cut transportation, cut parent liaisons, cut secretaries, cut security, cut help for the nurses. Mr. Fajardo stated that he just mentioned one nurse who attends to 250 hearing impaired students and by herself she is trying to do the job in several schools and yet we cannot afford to give her one person to help her get the job done because we had to cut that.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Mr. Kennedy took the roll call for the Requisition for Taxes which was moved by Mr. Trujillo and seconded by Mr. Perreira.

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Resolution for Unused Sick Days and the Resolution for Unused Vacation Days were tabled and we all agreed to discuss it in private. Mr. Rodriguez asked if we would have to give these staff members a Rice Notice and are they still people employed in the district to speak about them in private or if they are not in district do they not fall into that Rice Notice.

Mr. Lehman responded that it is his understanding that the nature of the conversation would be about positions and not necessarily the individuals so no Rice Notice would be necessary.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it is his understanding that these individuals no longer work for the Board.

Mr. Lehman responded that is correct.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked them for the information.

The second reading was done of the following revised bylaw:

9305 Bylaw Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs and Commitments

Resolution – Revised Bylaw – Vision, Mission, Core Beliefs and Commitments File Code 9305

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo stated that at the last Board of Education meeting he brought up a resolution and next month we are going to be dedicating the new Jerome Dunn Academy. Mr. Fajardo stated that earlier we heard the comments from the teachers and one in particular who has been working there for 35 years and the difference that has been made and the other teachers who spoke about George Washington Academy School No. 1. Mr. Fajardo stated that this is also like the situation with the taxes where unfortunately there were newspapers' accounts and Twitter where the Mayor of this City insulted Mr. Jerome Dunn. Mr. Fajardo stated that he believes that

it is only proper that this Board of Education once again asks that the Mayor sends an apology to Mr. Jerome Dunn. Mr. Fajardo stated that he is making a motion that the Mayor of the City apologize for his insensitivity for remarks he made about him without knowing the personal situation of Mr. Dunn and the health situation of Mr. Dunn.

A motion was made by Mr. Fajardo, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to send a resolution to the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth asking him to apologize for his unfair remarks to Mr. Jerome Dunn.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the resolution that Mr. Fajardo just moved is not on the agenda and asked if we have to do a suspension of rules to add this to the agenda or would this be better if brought up in new business.

Mr. Lehman stated that either you can ask for a suspension of the rules or bring it up in new business.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to suspend the rules.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Mr. Monteiro stated that there is a motion on the floor for a resolution to be sent to the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth asking him to apologize for his unfair remarks to Mr. Jerome Dunn.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 6

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Mr. Rodriguez stated that since we are in a suspension of the rules he also has a resolution to present. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we were speaking tonight a lot about money that we don't have and positions that were cut. Mr. Rodriguez read the resolution to authorize the Board attorney and School Business Administrator to immediately execute procedures to withdraw the court ordered judgment of \$66,037.49 from the Superior Court trust fund and deposit the money in an interest bearing account dedicated to the exclusive use of school purposes benefiting the school students. Mr. Rodriguez stated that maybe we can use this money to help the nurse out in the school and get help especially when students need help.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to adopt a resolution asking for the money to be returned to the district for educational uses.

Mr. Lehman stated that if Mr. Rodriguez had spoken to him he would have advised him that this resolution is a non-entity. Mr. Lehman stated that we are already in the process of getting this money from Pashman Stein. Mr. Lehman stated that the Superintendent has been advised and we have been in discussion that the only thing that is necessary is that we designate the money for educational purposes. Mr. Lehman stated that the Superintendent is going to advise him shortly as to the purpose and it would be a letter to Pashman Stein and the Court and the money will be released. Mr. Lehman stated that there is no need for this resolution.

Mr. Neron stated that this is just reinforcing what Mr. Lehman just said and we are all saying the same thing.

Mr. Lehman responded that it is not.

Mr. Neron stated that Mr. Lehman is saying that we are working on the process to get this money back to the district so we can dedicate it to student services.

Mr. Lehman responded no and explained that the court has indicated that upon a letter from the Superintendent indicating what these monies are going to be used for and they need to be used for educational purposes then the money will be released to the Board. Mr. Lehman stated that this resolution seeks to set up a separate trust account which was not in the contemplation of the court or what the court ordered. Mr. Lehman stated that the court will not release it to a separate trust fund and it is his understanding that the court has asked the district to designate the funds for a specific education purpose and they will release the money to us.

Mr. Trujillo asked, so he could understand how this works, that when you suspended the rules was the suspension for what was on the table.

Mr. Lehman responded that the rules were suspended.

Mr. Fajardo stated that it is important that the public understands and realizes what this is all about and what this was all about at the time. Mr. Fajardo stated that this lawsuit was instituted against this individual that is mentioned here and is because this individual who happens to be a friend of the individuals who finance the campaign for the colleagues that misled the public with the taxes last year. Mr. Fajardo stated that this individual used a signature of a former superintendent in a fake letter that was a letter full of hate towards one particular portion of a community in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Fajardo stated that the way the lawsuit was filed by the attorneys for the Board of Education was the problem and the lawsuit itself was not the problem. Mr. Fajardo stated that the problem was that we could have totally won the case had the case been filed properly by the attorney. Mr. Fajardo stated that it so happens that he is not an attorney and it so happens that we and all the members of the Board of Education at that time followed the advice of legal counsel as to how they could vote and if they were allowed to vote or not. Mr. Fajardo stated that at the time this occurred we followed the guidance of counsel of the particular firm that represented the Board of Education in this matter and they said do it this way. Mr. Fajardo stated that he didn't go to law school.

Mr. Lehman stated that Mr. Fajardo is correct and at the time this district was represented by the largest law firm in the State of New Jersey and based upon the advice that they gave to this Board Mr. Fajardo and Mr. Munoz were named as plaintiffs in that case. Mr. Lehman stated that the advice turned out to be what we believe as malpractice. Mr. Lehman stated that we currently have a malpractice action against that law firm that is presently pending.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he fully believes that the malpractice case against that law firm that did not advise this Board properly that this Board of Education is going to win it. Mr. Fajardo stated that as far as the monies that had to be paid out by Mr. Munoz and myself we have been fully restituted because the law firm understands now the horrible mistake that they made. Mr. Fajardo stated that if you plan to use this as a political issue with any malice now you understand why we went to defend the honor of this Board of Education where an individual was accusing this Board of Education as a racist Board of Education and we had at the time and we do have the duty to defend this institution against any and all individuals who try to stain this Board of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that if you didn't understand it hopefully you will understand it now.

Mr. Neron stated that he needs clarification so he understands. Mr. Neron asked if it is correct that when this lawsuit was initially filed it was a defamation of character on the individuals named in here and the Board of Education defended the individuals.

Mr. Lehman responded no. Mr. Lehman stated that the Board of Education filed suit against the defendant who the Board believed made disparaging remarks against the Board. Mr. Lehman stated that on advice of counsel the Board President at the time, Mr. Fajardo, and the Superintendent at the time, Mr. Munoz, were asked to be plaintiffs by our outside counsel at the time.

Mr. Neron stated that was not his question and the question was that the fact that there was a lawsuit that existed was because, as Mr. Fajardo stated, that there was a letter that went out that defamed the character of the individual.

Mr. Fajardo responded no and stated that it defamed the character of the Superintendent and the President of the Board and this Board of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that this Board of Education at that time took the position to allow the Superintendent who was running a district with at the time 24,000 students to be accused of being a racist. Mr. Fajardo asked how can that be allowed to have that individual be running a district with qualities like that. Mr. Fajardo stated that therefore this Board of Education took the initiative to sue the individual who created a fake letter that was used for political purposes. Mr. Fajardo stated that the way that the lawsuit was filed by the law firm was incorrectly done so and as a result this is why the courts found the way that they did. Mr. Fajardo stated that if they had done it properly and correctly this individual would have been exposed of the fraud that he committed. Mr. Fajardo stated that individual was defended by the law firm of Ray Lesniak, the same individual who financed your campaign.

Mr. Neron stated that at the end of the day he is saying that the law firm realized that they couldn't defend you the way they thought they could defend him.

Mr. Lehman stated that is not what he is saying.

Mr. Fajardo stated that is not what he said and Mr. Lehman can answer the legal questions. Mr. Fajardo stated that he is not an attorney and all he can say is that he got his money back.

Mr. Lehman stated that this should be discussed in private session.

Mr. Fajardo stated that he doesn't mind personally discussing this in public because it is probably going to be part of TV commercial soon by the allies of his colleagues.

Mr. Monteiro stated that for the years he has known Mr. Fajardo and for the many years that he has already given in sacrifice and service to this City the results speak for themselves. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Fajardo is no stranger to this kind of garbage that comes out and this is nothing but political propaganda that is going to be used in the next five weeks of the campaign. Mr. Monteiro stated that everyone knows that Mr. Fajardo and Mr. Perreira are up for re-election. Mr. Monteiro stated that those who know Mr. Fajardo know that he is fiercely independent and he is not bought by the politicians. Mr. Monteiro stated that he has been approached many times in the past twenty years by Senator Ray Lesniak to turn over and flip sides. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is the only organization that Senator Lesniak doesn't control or have any say in it and it's a sad day when we have to bring this into our Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that he doesn't think Mr. Fajardo needs to worry because his record and his years of service to the children of this City speak volumes. Mr. Monteiro stated that he can attest to that because last year they had the Super Pac that Senator Lesniak spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and all their propaganda and lies and it is going to happen again. Mr. Monteiro stated that it started again yesterday with the Social Economic Justice putting out their pieces again, the Super Pac of Ray Lesniak. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is happening again and the next 60 days are going to be more of the same garbage. Mr. Monteiro stated that he knows the people at home understand and they are intelligent voters and know the difference. Mr. Monteiro stated that the people at home know that Mr. Fajardo has sacrificed his entire life for the service and the good of this educational

system here in Elizabeth and today we have the Number One Urban School System in the State of New Jersey, phenomenal staff many of whom are from the City of Elizabeth and live in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that the people need to know that this is nothing more than just political hogwash.

Mr. Lehman stated that from a legal point of view this resolution is just not necessary and there is already a mechanism in place. Mr. Lehman stated that the Legal Department together with the Superintendent's Office and outside counsel have already been working on getting this money released.

Mr. Fajardo thanked Mr. Monteiro for his very kind words and stated that when he was asked and he asked his family if they would allow him to come back to this Board of Education we knew that this was going to be happening. Mr. Fajardo stated that he accepted the challenge because he has faced cowards before and he welcomes the fight and welcomes a fight with Goliath any day, any time. Mr. Fajardo stated that he can tell you this, that whatever happens November 4th whether he wins or loses, he cannot be a loser because the results speak for itself. Mr. Fajardo stated that there are a lot of people who have worked with him throughout the years to make a difference. Mr. Fajardo stated that this school that we are sitting in was an empty warehouse and there used to be a go-go bar in the corner and today it's one of the best if not the most beautiful building in the City of Elizabeth for a school for 1,000 kids. Mr. Fajardo stated that this school could have had underground parking and another football field for our youth and because of politicians it was delayed for a year and as a result of that we lost monies and we lost millions and millions of dollars because of the delay caused by politicians who would do anything at their cost to try to destroy this Board of Education for political purposes. Mr. Fajardo stated that you look at their bank account and look at my bank account, look at the mansions that they own and he lives on Palisade Road, he drives a 2005 Dodge Dakota and he is very proud of it. Mr. Fajardo stated that he has spent his life for service to the children of this Board of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that no matter what happens on November 4th he is a winner no matter what. Mr. Fajardo stated that he believes that the people of this City will see through clearly that you have individuals on this Board of Education that have accepted and will be accepting money from the bail bondsman industry, from the casino industry, from the Longshoreman organization to get themselves elected to this Board of Education and misleading and lying to the people saying that we were raising taxes and look what happened as a result a year later so that we could fight those lies and look at all those cuts. Mr. Fajardo stated that if the nurse at the school does not have an aid he suggests that Mr. Rodriguez search his conscience.

The motion did not pass by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 3

Negative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 6

Mr. Rodriguez asked Mr. Lehman for a point of clarification if we are in possession of these funds at the current moment.

Mr. Lehman responded no.

Mr. Perreira asked Mr. Lehman for a point of clarification if we are in the process of obtaining the funds.

Mr. Lehman responded yes.

Mr. Fajardo stated that for a point of clarification he got all his money back and the money that belongs to this Board of Education is sitting in a bank account which is going to be transferred to this Board of Education very soon. Mr. Fajardo stated that the rest of the monies that is owed to this Board of Education he feels very strongly that the law firm that represented this Board of Education at the time and gave this Board of Education incorrect and improper

advice as to how to go about doing our legal business will have to refund this Board of Education every nickel that we paid them. Mr. Fajardo stated that this Board of Education will be vindicated and he believes it will be exposed how the Senator of a County like ours who is supposed to be representing us has been working to undermine and destroy this Board of Education so he can give the resources of this Board of Education to his companies, legal firms, contractors, and so on. Mr. Fajardo stated that all we have done here is fight for the children and all of us are conducting this meeting in a place where we fought very, very hard for a very long time to get this school built and yet that individual was fighting us all the way to try to stop us and here we are.

Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Fajardo has thick skin and has been through this his whole life and he prays for him and his family for what he has to go through the next 5 weeks. Mr. Monteiro stated that he prays that the people at home watching understand the importance of keeping this an independent board and not a board that should be bought by politicians. Mr. Monteiro stated that he wants the people at home to understand that no one Senator or one Mayor should have that much power and control an entire municipality and entire Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that he knows that the people at home are smart enough and intelligent enough to understand that. Mr. Monteiro stated that this remarkable transformation of the Elizabeth Board of Education happened after it was wrestled away from the political bosses over twelve years ago and today this incredible transformation happened because of this independence of a board like Mr. Fajardo and Mr. Perreira and not individuals who are going to be bought and paid for by the political bosses like Senator Lesniak or others. Mr. Monteiro stated that no political bosses should have that much power and he hopes everyone at home clearly understands that and re-elect Mr. Fajardo and Mr. Perreira as independent school board members as they should and he prays that they do.

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, A.F., C.S., G.S., A.P., and L.R.; legal matters, specifically Property Easement New School 22, Environmental Impact Settlement, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results and Workers' Compensation Claim, specifically, R.J. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to go into private session at 11:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo excused himself from the meeting at 1:44 a.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 1:45 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to put back on the table the Supplemental Personnel Report Page 3, Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities, Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days, and Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Fajardo returned to the meeting at 1:48 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. González, that this be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. González, Neron, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Messrs. Fajardo, Perreira – 2

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved with a waiver of facility fees for Soccer School Club Valley, Councilman Carlos Cedeno, NJ Galaxy Soccer Academy, and America's United Soccer Academy and a waiver of all fees for the remainder of the requests.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina (abstain- Soccer School Club Valley, NJ Galaxy Soccer Academy, and America's United Soccer Academy), Messrs. Fajardo, Gonzalez, Neron (abstain- City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services), Perreira, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 8

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Acceptance of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) 2014 Self-Assessment and Authorization to Submit to New Jersey Department of Education

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez commended Anti-Bullying Coordinator Eunice Couselo and her staff for their work on the report.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Mr. Rodriguez and commented that he agreed.

Resolution – Authorization to Execute Easement - New School 22

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Environmental Impact Settlement

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Suspension with pay – A.P.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Kathleen Badalis

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Oscar Crespo

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – John Mellody

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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 8

Negative: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Mr. Monteiro congratulated the three principals and the Superintendent on their recommendations originally as interim principals and now as principals.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on School Violence and Vandalism for the Reporting Period 2 from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in January 2002, the New Jersey Legislature enacted laws concerning violence and vandalism and in accordance with these laws all New Jersey public school districts must designate the week beginning with the third Monday in October as School Violence Awareness Week. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that during School Violence Awareness Week, school districts are expected to organize activities including, but not limited to, inviting law enforcement officials to join members of the teaching staff in discussions to prevent school violence and provide age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution has been put before the Board this evening, September 18, 2014 declaring the week of October 20-24, 2014 School Violence Awareness Week and each of our schools submit a plan each year to the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Schools that outlines the activities and programs that will be conducted during School Violence Awareness Week. Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, two times each year between September 1 and January 1, and between January 1 and June 30, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of violence and vandalism which occurred in the public schools during the previous reporting period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Violence and Vandalism report is divided into five categories including Count of Incidents by Reporting Category, Cost of Vandalism, Actions Taken, Offenders and Victims, and Program Provided Upon Disciplinary Action.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that during the Reporting Period 2 between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014 there were 46 incidents of violence and 65 harassment, intimidation and bullying incidents, 26 acts of vandalism that includes fire alarm pulls, 17 incidents that involved weapons, 55 cases of substance abuse and the total cost involved in incidents is no longer reported. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the police were notified 21 times with no complaint taken, 37 times with a complaint filed, there were 2 expulsions, 158 out-of-school suspensions, 13 other discipline actions which include parent conferences, counseling, and detention. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the incidents involved the following offenders: 168 general education students, 45 students with a disability, 0 students from another district, 2 non-students, 16 incidents involving school personnel, and there were 3 victims of violent criminal offenses. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that under the new category, Program Provided Upon Disciplinary Action, assignments, instruction and/or support services were given to 84 students, an in-district program provided for 0 students, home instruction given to 58 students, and 3 students placed in an out-of-district program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked if there is anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report. Since no dialogue transpired and no comments were made regarding the Chief School Administrator's presentation on violence and vandalism, Mrs. Hugelmeyer closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period beginning January 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2014. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in January 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, Chapter 122 and in accordance with this law, all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a "Week of Respect" and during the Week of Respect school districts are expected to organize activities including, but not limited to, age appropriate instruction and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution was put before the Board in

October declaring the week of October 7-11, 2013 Week of Respect and each of our schools planned appropriate activities for this week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 two times each year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the reporting period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014 there were 382 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff and of those cases investigated 65 were confirmed cases of HIB and were affirmed by board members through the July 2014 meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the following Anti-Bullying Specialists, Anti-Bullying Specialist Alternates, and Anti-Bullying Coordinator conducted these investigations including Jacqueline Cajuste, Ann Schpakow, Maria Brito, Jessica Sofranko, Ali Abdul-Malik, Kerry O'Connor, Maria Vindas, Peter Vosseler, Lourdes Soto, Linda Fletcher, Colleen Reynolds, Christine Lillis-Flaherty, Sarah LaFace, Hilda Perez, Nancy Nieves, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Theresa Guevara, Wilma Helm, Jennifer Hernandez, Natalie Haiken, Anita McCrea, Dayna Gil-Morais, Darnella Boles, Andrea Giuca, Lauren Czarnecki, Victoria Lawrence-White, Lisa O'Leary, Deborah Leff, Cindy Lichtenstein, Amelia Joanne Turner, Kimberly Girgis, Rosa Dulzaides, Brianna Helm, Safiyyah Howell, Mayra Pena, Aleina Cuza-Murray, Linda Lewis, Guadalupe Ferreiro, Juana Ithier, Margaret Lundrigan, Giselle Sanzone, Joseph Sanchez, Lisa Rappa, Linda Bean, Sam Bernstein, Ronald Orinick, Lucilia Hernandez, and Eunice Y. Couselo. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 8 incidents based on race, 2 incidents based on color, 0 incidents based on religion, 3 incidents based on ancestry, 4 incidents based on national origin, 4 incidents based on gender, 7 incidents based on sexual orientation, 1 incident based on gender identity or expression, 4 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 49 incidents based on other targeted bases. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 0 incidents involved a gesture, 0 incidents involved a written communication, 59 incidents were verbal, 26 incidents were physical, and 4 incidents involved electronic communication. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 25 out-of-school suspensions, 26 in-school detentions, and 48 other disciplinary actions and additional services such as in-house counseling, skill development, and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014 the district provided appropriate HIB training to guidance counselors and social workers and to new staff and support staff in the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additionally the district provided extensive and specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all Anti-Bullying Specialists and Alternates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that non-certificated staff also received training and all school level administrators and all HIB staff received training in the HIBster reporting program which was implemented this school year.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked if there is anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report. Since no dialogue transpired and no comments were made regarding the Chief School Administrator's presentation on harassment, intimidation and bullying, Mrs. Hugelmeyer closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) for the period starting July 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in January 2011 the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, Chapter 122 and in accordance with this law all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a "Week of Respect" and during the Week of Respect school districts are expected to organize activities including, but not limited to, age-appropriate instruction and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a resolution was put before the Board in October declaring the week of October 7-11, 2013 Week of Respect and each of our schools planned appropriate activities for this week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46 two times each year between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1 and June 30 the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will

report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the reporting period. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 there were 193 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff and of those cases investigated 23 were confirmed cases of HIB and were affirmed by board members through the December 2013 meeting. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the following Anti-Bullying Specialists, Anti-Bullying Specialist Alternates, and Anti-Bullying Coordinator conducted these investigations including Maria Cabrera, Jacqueline Cajuste, Ann Schpakow, Maria Brito, Jessica Sofranko, Ali Abdul-Malik, Kerry O'Connor, Maria Vindas, Peter Vosseler, Lourdes Soto, Linda Fletcher, Colleen Reynolds, Christine Lillis-Flaherty, Janet Mazzarella, Sarah LaFace, Hilda Perez, Nancy Nieves, Jill Aller, Denise Uniacke, Sofia Verma, Theresa Guevara, Wilma Helm, Jennifer Hernandez, Natalie Haiken, Anita McCrea, Rosaria Scaff, Dayna Gil-Morais, Darnella Boles, Andrea Giuca, Eva Exelbert, Lauren Czarnecki, Victoria Lawrence-White, Lisa O'Leary, Jecenia Solorzano, Theresa Zucoski, Deborah Leff, Cindy Lichtenstein, Amelia Joanne Turner, Kimbrly Girgis, Wendy Maravi, Rosa Dulzaides, Nancy Monaco, Brianna Helm, Safiyyah Howell, Mayra Pena, Aleina Cuza-Murray, Linda Lewis, Guadalupe Ferreiro, Valerie Hendon, Stephanie Machin-Gardner, Juana Ithier, Margaret Lundrigan, Ronald Orinick, and Eunice Y. Couselo.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 8 incidents based on race, 2 incidents based on color, 0 incident based on religion, 0 incidents based on ancestry, 9 incidents based on national origin, 2 incidents based on gender, 3 incidents based on sexual orientation, 0 incidents based on gender identity or expression, 0 incidents based on mental, physical or sensory disability, and 14 incidents based on other targeted bases. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 0 incidents involved a gesture, 0 incidents involved a written communication, 16 incidents were verbal, 10 incidents were physical, and 2 incidents involved an electronic communication. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 16 out-of-school suspensions, 5 in-school detentions, and 5 other disciplinary actions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that additional services such as in-house counseling, skill development, and behavioral intervention were offered to involved students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013 the district provided appropriate HIB training to guidance counselors and social workers and to new staff and support staff in the district and additionally, the district provided extensive and specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all Anti-Bullying Specialists and Alternates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all school level administrators and all HIB staff received training in the HIBster reporting program which is being implemented this school year.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked if there is anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report. Since no dialogue transpired and no comments were made regarding the Chief School Administrator's presentation on harassment, intimidation and bullying, Mrs. Hugelmeyer closed the public hearing.

Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mr. Neron welcomed all the teachers and staff back for a wonderful year. Mr. Neron stated that the Assistant Superintendents have a challenging job ahead of them with a lot of changes and budget cuts. Mr. Neron stated that he wanted to encourage those at home watching to get involved and stay informed as to what it going on in the school district and they can get involved in different community activities that you may hear. Mr. Neron stated that it is a community effort as to how we help to raise our children. Mr. Neron stated that on Saturday, September 20th at Kellogg Park the City of Elizabeth will be sponsoring the Annual Prostate Cancer Walk. Mr. Neron stated that most men often times don't get screened and it is very important that we make sure that our fathers and male staff get involved and get screened and that the women encourage the men to get involved and get screened for prostate cancer. Mr. Neron stated this is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and there will be free screenings at the school across the street from Kellogg Park from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is a soccer tournament for children with autism at O'Brien Field this Saturday, September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Fajardo, González, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 9

Negative: None

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