

APPROVED  
Bd Mtg 6-14-23

BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 11, 2023  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Prior to the start of the regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education, which was held on May 11, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center, 600 Pearl Street., Elizabeth, New Jersey, Board Members, Administration, School Staff members and the public audience were treated to performances by students in honor of Cuban, Haitian and Portuguese Heritage Month.

The Poem “Llegada” por Nicholas Guillen was read by Valerie Saro Cuello an 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., Health and Safety Academy.

The Poem “Mar Portugues” de Fernando Pessoa was read by Mackenzie Simone Guelho, a 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy.

The Poem “Yo Vle Dekpourajem Poum Pa Ekri an Kreyol” Ekri Pa: Hebert Logerie Fernando Pessoa was read by Anaica Thomas, a 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.

A Living Wax Museum was staged by Students from Terrence C. Reilly School No. 7, which featured from Cuba – Alma Flor Ada (Author) and Dr Serena M Aunor (Astronaut). From Haiti, Angie Bell (Author/Activist) and Jean Joel Desrouleaux (Singer/Songwriter) were portrayed. Peter Souza (Photographer) & Helder Antunes (Computer Scientist) both natives of Portugal were saluted for their accomplishments.

El Manisero by Willy Chiniro was performed by Students from Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28.

Haitian Flag Day (Our Flag) was Recited by Board Member Stan Neron.

A Tribute to Haiti “Nou Se Caribbean” by Carifesta was performed by Students from Nicholas Butler School No. 23 and Board Vice President Charlene Bathelus Dorgely.

“O Malhao, Malhao” by Linda De Suza was performed by Students from Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 and Board Members Diane Barbosa, Maria Carvalho and Stephanie Goncalves Pestana.

“Michaels Cha” by Michael Vinas

“The Girl from Ipanema” by Antonio Carlos Jobim

“Footprints” by Wayne Shorter

All three of these songs were performed by Students from FJCA Advanced Jazz Band.

Board President Iliana Chevres welcomed everyone to the May 11th, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Chevres called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 7:19 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on May 5th, 2023. In addition, this notice is posted on the Bulletin Board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

We want to welcome everyone present here at the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center and to our television viewers to the May 11th, 2023, 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. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate speaking when talking becomes personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must personally sign in prior to the 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 Mmmes. Barbosa, (arrived at 7:57 p.m.) Carvalho, Dorgerly (arrived at 7:58 p.m.) Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres-9  
Absent: None

Board President Iliana Chevres asked Board Secretary, Mr. Kennedy, to include our Student Representative in the roll call, to have the record reflect that Miss Monika Flores from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy was in attendance this evening. This was noted by Mr. Kennedy.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Jennifer Cedeno, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi of Kologi Simitz Law Office, Esq., and members of the community were present.

A Moment of Silence was held in Memory of Dave Alex Grande a student at Joseph Battin School No., 4 as well as for Samirah Houston, a student at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Isaias Rivera.

The *Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was played.

The National Anthems of Cuba, Haiti and Portugal were played.

- Cuban National Anthem- “La Bayamesa” by Perucho Figueredo
- The Haitian National Anthem- “La Dessalinienne by Justin Lherisson
- Portuguese National Anthem- “A Portuguesa “by Henrique Lopes de Mendonca.

Board President Mrs. Iliana Chevres read the following public participation statement:

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have personally signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The time limit will be strictly enforced, and audio transmission will be terminated at the end of three minutes. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 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 participation 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. The presiding officer may: interrupt, warn or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Chevres called upon the first public participant, Ms. Melba Henao, to address the Board.

Ms. Henao. spoke about Special Education.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments. Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent Cortes to speak with Ms. Henao about her concerns.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about Special Education.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

Since there were no other public participants signed up to address the Board, Mrs. Chevres closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Iliana Chevres then asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present her report to the community.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a slide showing the dates when the NJSLA tests would be administered by Subject matter and Grade levels. These tests will be given between May 8 and May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent presented slides showing 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion & High School Graduation /Class Award Ceremonies Schedule. Grade 8 Promotion Ceremonies:

- Wednesday June 21 9:00 a.m. Schools 6-13-15-27-28-29-30 At 1:00 p.m. the following schools will hold their 8th Grade Promotion ceremonies-3-4-7-18-19. Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Schools 1-14-16-20-21-25-26. On Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. Schools 2-5-8-9-12-22-23.
- The High School Graduation /Class Awards Ceremony for each school will be held at Williams Field at the following times/ 9:00 a.m. Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Elizabeth High School – FJC/ 1:00 p.m. Bollwage/ 5:00 p.m. Edison. Monday 9:00 a.m. June 26<sup>th</sup> Halsey/ 1:00 p.m. Jefferson/5:00 p.m. Hamilton Tuesday 9:00 a.m. June 27<sup>th</sup> -Dwyer.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer informed the audience that Elizabeth was named one of the BEST Communities for Music Education for 2023 by the NAMM foundation.

The Superintendent announced that Elizabeth Athletics had Signing Day ceremonies, where our High School Athletes committed to play sports at various colleges and universities. A proud day for athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators.

The Superintendent said the District would be celebrating, recognizing achievements, and expressing gratitude during the month of May/early June for:

- School Principals Day – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- National Nurses Week – May 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week May 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>
- Teacher Appreciation Day – May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Asian Pacific Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Better Speech and Hearing Month
- Kindness Awareness Month
- National Military Appreciation Month
- Haitian Flag Day-May 18th
- Cuban Flag Day – May 20th
- Portugal Day June 10<sup>th</sup>
- June is Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Board President Iliana Chevres asked Student Representative Monika Flores to present her Community Update.

Good evening, Madame President, Board of Education commissioners, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, assistant superintendents, and administrators. This month we have a lot going on at all our high schools. Every high school celebrated National Decision Day as many of our seniors announced their acceptances to universities and colleges all over the country. Students expressed their gratitude and well wishes for National Teacher Appreciation week. Each building is in the process of holding elections for student government, class council and homecoming for the upcoming school year. Students across the district will be participating in the Teen Arts program later this month. Several high schools have held blood drives over the past month.

Frank J. Cicarell Academy is hosting several music concerts this month and the jazz band won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the state competition for the first time in several years.

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy is welcoming spring with a spring dance concert.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy is hosting a murder mystery night to encourage critical thinking skills.

Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy is hosting a splash day and the ROTC is attending the Kearny Parade.

Dwyer Technology Academy attended the special Olympics and received a county grant to plant seeds to encourage healthier eating.

Thank you for the privilege of speaking to you this evening.

Mrs. Chevres asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Community Reports.

Board President Iliana Chevres requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of the following matters: Workers Compensation Matters, specifically – D.W. and M.V.

Personnel Matters, specifically Personal Reports, District Calendar, Interviews. Award of Contracts, specifically Cafeteria Paper Goods. Authorization Report, specifically School Meal Pricing.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mrs. Carvalho to go into private session at 7:54 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Carvalho, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: none

Mr. Neron left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to return to public session at 10:34 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -8

Negative: none

.

The following items were added to the agenda:

Resolution -Appointment of Vice Principal Sara Louise LaFace - Aprenda

Resolution -Appointment of Vice Principal Stephanie Gaeta

Resolution -Appointment of Vice Principal Jerika Fernandez

Resolution -Appointment of Vice Principal Tamika R. Reddick

Award of Contract to Imperial Bag and Paper LLC (Paper Products)

Transfer of Vice Principal Francesca Fererra

Placement of S. M. P. on Paid Administrative Leave

Placement of S. S. W. on Paid Administrative Leave

Worker's Comp Settlement – D.W.

Worker's Comp Settlement- M.V.

Increment and Salary Adjustment Withheld – Certified Personnel - Performance

Increment and Salary Adjustment Withheld – Non-Certified Personnel - Performance

Increment and Salary Adjustment Withheld – Non-Certified Personnel - Discipline

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

Mrs. Chevres asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Barbosa to approve the agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (April 19, 2023)

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (March 31, 2023)

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuitions Report

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report

Award of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Claims List

Resolutions:

Haitian Heritage Month

Portugal Day

Cuban American Day

E.R.E.S.C. 2023-2024 Home Instruction Services

E.S.C. of New Jersey 2023-2024 Coordinated Transportation Services

Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Appointing McCloskey Mechanical Contractors, Inc. – Food Services Freezers

Appointing R.P. Baking, LLC – Bread and Rolls

Appointing Malachy Mechanical – Food Services Equipment

Appointing Nardone Bros. Baking Company (Pizza Products)

Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Application for Alternations to Leased Property (St. Michaels School)

Approval of Employment Contracts 2023-2024

Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System

Appointment of Vice Principal Joseph Battin School No. 4 – Jerika Fernandez  
Appointment of Vice Principal Nicholas Murray Buter School No. 23 Annex – Stephanie Gaeta  
Appointment of Vice Principal John Marshall School No. 20 – Sara Louise Laface-Aprenda  
Appointment of Vice Principal iPrep Academy School No. 8 – Tamika R. Riddick  
Transfer of Vice Principal Francesca Fererra  
Placement of S. M. P. on Paid Administrative Leave  
Placement of S. S. W. on Paid Administrative Leave  
Award of Contract to Imperial Bag & Paper Co., LLC – (Cafeteria Paper Products)  
Settlement Workers' Comp – D.W.  
Settlement Workers' Comp – M.V.  
Increment and Salary Adjustment Withheld – Certified Personnel - Performance  
Increment and Salary Adjustment Withheld – Non-Certified Personnel - Performance  
Increment and Salary Adjustment Withheld – Non-Certified Personnel - Discipline

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho (Abstain on Tab 2a Attachment pg. 19 Nicole Avila Santos, Vito Mazza, Francisco Cuesta Abstain Resolution 10 M Jennifer Cedeno), Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres (Abstain on Tab 2a Attachment pg. 19 Juan Chevres, Eduardo Dias, Francisco Cuesta, Ana Mary Medina, Luis Milanes, Michael Cummings, Jecenia Solorzano Castro) -8

Negative: none

Mrs. Chevres asked if any Board members have questions or comments. Being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Mrs. Dorgely, seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -8

Negative: none

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