

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

December 16, 2021
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center, 151 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

In light of the Governor's recent order lifting Covid restrictions on indoor gathering capacity limits and social distancing requirements, the meeting will be open to the public in person. In person attendees will still be required to follow Covid precautions including the wearing of masks. The Board will open in Public Session at 6:30 p.m. The Board reserves the right to go into Private Session to discuss matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act. Action will be taken.

Board President Jerry Jacobs presented the following statement at 6:50 p.m.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda and 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 December 10, 2021. 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 Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center and to our television viewers to this December 16, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. In order that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time 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 may sign in up 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: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres (arr. 7:30 p.m.), Charlene B. Dorgely (arr. 7:10 p.m.), Rosa Moreno-Ortega (arr. 8:30 p.m.), Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Jerry Jacobs – 8

Absent: Stanley Neron – 1

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, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the community were present.

Mr. Jacobs called for a moment of silence for the passing of warehouse storekeeper Nobel Jose Leon and former Principal of Terence C. Reilly Middle School Cecilia Cosgrove.

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 Santiago Fernandez, tenth grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Joshua Pagan, eleventh grade student at Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Raudel Ruiz Marcos, ninth grade student at J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy.

Mr. Jacobs introduced Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts Tracy Monteiro to welcome the Elizabeth High School Marching Band who performed *What We Love* featuring music by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Lady Gaga, and Sting, directed by Band Director Benjamin Schwartz.

Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts Tracy Monteiro introduced the 2021 State Champion Elizabeth High School Marching Band and Color Guard. Mrs. Monteiro stated that this has been a year like no other with many challenges. Mrs. Monteiro congratulated the Elizabeth High School Marching Band and Color Guard on their championship.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer introduced Senator Joseph Cryan and City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage.

Senator Joseph Cryan stated that he is here with City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Board President Jerry Jacobs. Senator Cryan congratulated the wonderful Elizabeth High School Marching Band with their synergy on the floor and whether it is from band camp practice or their practice every week, they won the Championship Title. Senator Cryan stated that a playlist that goes from Tchaikovsky to *Bad Romance* by Lady Gaga is something special and it reflects their work and dedication. Senator Cryan presented, on behalf of his legislature colleagues, a State of New Jersey Resolution to Band Director Benjamin Schwartz recognizing all 71 band members and their efforts and hard work and also the efforts of the band parents. Senator Cryan congratulated the band members and wished them many great things in the future.

City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage wished everyone a Merry Christmas on behalf of his wife and daughter.

Senator Cryan introduced Jacques Gonzales, Head Coach of the Group IV Championship Elizabeth Minutemen Varsity Boys Soccer Team. Senator Cryan stated that he has a State Resolution, on behalf of the legislature, recognizing all the soccer team members for their championship. Senator Cryan stated that in the Pledge of Ethics it says to inspire the best and that Head Coach Jacques Gonzales inspires the best in his team members. Senator Cryan stated that the wonderful win over Hunterdon Central was something remarkable. Senator Cryan presented the resolution to Head Coach Jacques Gonzales and his team on behalf of the people of the State of New Jersey. Senator Cryan congratulated Head Coach Jacques Gonzales and the Elizabeth Minutemen Varsity Boys Soccer Team on their championship.

Head Coach Jacques Gonzales thanked Senator Cryan for the Resolution. Head Coach Jacques Gonzales presented a video of the Accomplishments of the Elizabeth Public Schools Varsity Boys Soccer Team.

Mr. Jacobs recognized the student athletes of the Elizabeth Varsity Boys Soccer Team who captured their third North Jersey, Section 2, Group IV, State Championship in four years with a dramatic victory at Williams Field over Hunterdon Central. Mr. Jacobs stated that in addition to the team's success several players will undoubtedly receive All State, All Group, and All Conference recognitions for their contributions to this memorable season. Mr. Jacobs congratulated Head Coach Jacques Gonzales on his fiftieth win which we celebrated earlier this year. Mr. Jacobs stated that Coach Gonzalez has been continuing the tradition we have with soccer and we are grateful we have him here to keep our student athletes at the top level tier that they are. Mr. Jacobs introduced the student athletes including Cleff Alexis, Andy Alvarez, Judeson Cajuste, Chrystian Calle, Jacoby Calvo, Justin Ceden, Jordan Duran, Santiago Fernandez, Matthew Giraldo, Emanuel Gonzalez, Cristian Hernandez, Danny Hernandez, Juan Hidalgo, Wesley Jaimes, Wood Jeune, Kevin Lopez, Frank Lozano, Raudel Marcos, Anthony Morales, Chimjae Mukanda, Ian Pallardel, Matthew Pires, Brandon Quishpi-Aquiles, Josue Ruiz, Jason Salamanca, Ignacio Urroz, Brandon Valencia, and Jordy Zuniga; assistant coaches Lou Argondizza, Dennis Correia, Diego DaGraca, Gustavo Della Corte, and Sebastian Pineiro; trainers Frank Colabella, III and Crista Sciancalepore; and head coach Jacques Gonzales. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Jacobs stated that student athlete Mathew Giraldo was named the First Team All State Player and Union County Conference Player of the Year. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated Mathew Giraldo and presented him with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Jacobs recognized the band members of the Elizabeth High School Marching Band who won the 2021 Marching Band Directors' Association Class AAA State Championship while earning a special award for best overall music. Mr. Jacobs thanked the entire band staff under the direction of Band Director Benjamin Schwartz. Mr. Jacobs stated that year after year our band has always performed and won on the state and national level and we have to be very proud of our students and the accomplishments of the band. Mr. Jacobs introduced the band members including Julianna Acebo, Niaya Acebo, Daniela Acosta, Michelle Algaba, Sandra Amigon, Giancarlo

Arcieri, Jeremy Atiencia, Josue Aviles, Andrews Calderon, Michaela Colas, Mia Cortes, Joseph Corticada, Matthew Vera, Eleni Demoleas, Steven Echeverria, Geraldine Erazo, Javier Felix, Rafael Felix, Stefany Figueiredo, Matthew Flechas, Angelina Gallagher, Moises Garcia, Stephanie Garcia, Kevin Gergely, Jacqueline Gonzales, Isabel Gonzalez, Lizeth Gonzalez, Anthony Hernandez, Jaylin Hinstroza, Youtham Ibrahim, Jacob Jauregui, Teresa Kiarie, Nicole Latorre, Andy Lebron, Maria Medranda, Bryan Mesa, Gabriela Meza, Brandon Mora, Gypsy Morales, Sabrina Moreira, Ariana Moreno, Laron Murray, Jr., Cristian Negrón, Francesca Negrón, Mariangel Nunez, Gabriel Oliveira, Joshua Pagan, Belen Paz, Mia Pelaez, Anthony Pupo, Angela Quaglia, Fabrizio Ramos, Steve Ramos, Sheleese Reed, Brandon Reyes, Kecia Rodriguez, Valerie Rodriguez, Bryanne Rubio-Retana, Nataniel Sajouste, Nuriel Santo de la Cruz, Dahlia Sebastiao, Evan Sebastiao, Milenka Silva, Ashly Solorzano, Alejandra Tasso, Ashley Ferraz, Alexandra Thomas, John Tixi, Aleshka Urco, Jonathan Valentin, Joyce Velasquez, and Victor Zane; staff Nicholas Agostinho, Mateo Acosta, Sharon Calixto, Israel Delgado, Tyler Deverman, Edward Doscher, Bruna Esteves, Joel Gonzalez, Louis Hellenger, Caroline Hoynowski, Nicholas Ingeri, Rebecca Ingeri, Ryan Jaccoi, Alex Moreno, Jeannabel Reyes, Melissa Rowe, Jennifer Sanchez, and Daquan Sessoms; band director Benjamin Schwartz; and band parents Jessica Acebo, Julian Acebo, Keisha Coleman-Reed, Alexandra Corticada, Joe Corticada, Demetria Demoleas, Jason Diosa, Myriam Figueiredo, Yamileth Osorio, Teresa Pupo, and Kiisha Velasquez. Mr. Jacobs and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer recognized Board President Jerry Jacobs who is finishing his term as President this month. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that maneuvering through life during the pandemic has been challenging for many of us and it has been especially challenging for our school board members as they have been charged with making difficult and complex decisions that impact the operations of our district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that research states that when it comes to leadership, there are ten key executive tasks that accompany successful crisis management. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that among them are early recognition of the crisis, sense making uncertain decisions, making critical decisions, coordinating within and across organizations, robust communication, reflecting and learning from the crisis, and upholding accountability. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the overall goal of a leader in these circumstances should be to increase organizational resilience before, during, and after a crisis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that effective crisis leadership involves more than effective communication and response coordination. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it also must attend to the general well-being and health of the organization's community members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that entering this role of leadership during an unprecedented crisis, Board President Jerry Jacobs recognized the importance of a leader's attention to social and emotional concerns during this crisis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that under his leadership, the Board prioritized returning students to school, balancing their needs for in-person learning, and social interaction with the overall safety and well-being of Elizabeth Public Schools community members including students, team members, and families. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through collaboration with local and regional health officials and medical experts, the Board made scientifically informed decisions that would lead to bringing students back to school for in-person learning for the first time in eighteen months in the safest way possible to create an environment for teaching and learning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that recognizing the importance of our most at-risk learners, the Board prioritized the return of our special education students to ensure they could receive the highest quality services possible under adverse conditions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that soon after, they were able to introduce all other grade

levels to return to school and help bring greater sense of hope and normalcy to our community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with a need to address increased student enrollment and to account for the need for social distancing during this pandemic, the Board leased two different school properties to add classroom instructional space and is in negotiation to acquire another school property. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through a prior school acquisition, the Board was able to open our eighth district high school, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, and Mary Jackson STEM Academy. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on a personal level, Board President Jacobs has dedicated a great amount of time working with the Superintendent and members of central administration on the Office of Equity and expanding the work of the Amistad Collaborative to help further bring the experience of our diverse community members and their respective cultures into our classroom instruction. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she knows he takes great pride in Elizabeth's diversity and having raised his children here in this special community, that pride along with his focus on equity and excellence for all has been evidenced in everything he has done for our community and our students. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Board President Jerry Jacobs, on behalf of the Elizabeth Public Schools community, for his exceptional service. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a video that highlights this past year during his leadership of the Board.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer for the kind words and beautiful video. Mr. Jacobs stated that it's hard to believe that we have reached the end of 2021, but we are here, and I just wanted to share with you from the bottom of my heart my appreciation for your support from all of you throughout these past 12 months.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he said in January, after accepting the appointment of Board President from my colleagues, that the challenges ahead may be the greatest of our lifetime but hope and change are on the horizon. Mr. Jacobs stated that while that statement is as true today as it was then, both in the challenges we continue to face and the hope and change that is on the way, he is so proud of the many significant accomplishments we achieved during 2021.

Mr. Jacobs stated that the pandemic has and continues to affect our children tremendously and it was imperative that this Board, central and school administrators, teachers, support staff, families, and community members all came together to help bring a sense of normalcy to our children, which was much needed. Mr. Jacobs stated that in March, special education students were able to return to in-person instruction and by the end of April, students of all grades returned to their classrooms in our schools. Mr. Jacobs stated that their return was made possible through the contributions and support of so many including our custodial support staff for their heroic efforts in preparing our schools through persistent cleaning and disinfecting, Mayor Bollwage and the City of Elizabeth for working with the district to make vaccinations available to all district team members and students 12 and older, and our plant and property and warehouse teams for coordinating air purifiers to be placed in every district classroom and office. Mr. Jacobs stated that we also were able to provide our 8th and 12th grade students the sendoffs they deserved by covering the costs of their yearbooks and caps and gowns, as well as prom and graduation lawn signs for our senior Class of 2021 graduates. Mr. Jacobs stated that, most importantly, we were able to provide them with in-person promotion and graduation ceremonies in the presence of family members to commemorate these milestone achievements.

Mr. Jacobs stated that this year we successfully opened two new annexes. Mr. Jacobs stated that we opened St. Genevieve for our EHS Frank J. Cicarell Ninth Grade Academy which enabled us to expand the number of available seats for all grades. Mr. Jacobs stated that we also opened Our Lady of Fatima which serves as an annex for School No. 3. Mr. Jacobs stated that one

of this Board's biggest acquisition was the purchase of the former Benedictine Academy with promising big plans for this property in the future.

Mr. Jacobs stated that we strategically capitalized on funds received from the ESSER II and American Rescue Act by combining them with a previously planned Energy Savings Improvement Plan (ESIP) to improve ventilation and LED lighting in all our schools, along with other facility improvements. Mr. Jacobs stated that in the near future all schools in Elizabeth will be equipped with air conditioning, which was a major initiative of this Board. Mr. Jacobs stated that with the federal funds we received this year, this Board and administration have continued to make investments in our educational technology. Mr. Jacobs stated that on this month's agenda we are approving the purchase of 1,000 new laptops for teachers, 5,000 iPads for incoming preschoolers, and 5,000 laptops to augment our past expenditures in ensuring that our children are equipped with the tools necessary to receive the best education possible. Mr. Jacobs stated that this Board and administration recognizes the effects that the pandemic has had on our children and dedicated funds to address learning loss with academic and intervention programs including new social and emotional learning programs for our students and professional development programs for our teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the synergistic partnership between the Board and administration during these challenging times was integral to the successes we have experienced this year during difficult times.

Mr. Jacobs stated that, unfortunately, the pandemic was not the only tragic event that we dealt with in 2021. Mr. Jacobs stated that the damage caused by Hurricane Ida caused extensive damage in our community, including two of our schools. Mr. Jacobs stated that as a district, we provided a resource fair to help those impacted. Mr. Jacobs stated that, additionally, we have ensured that those students displaced by the hurricane have received transportation from places as far as Jersey City and Avenel to continue receiving their education in our school buildings. Mr. Jacobs stated that we look forward to welcoming back the School Nos. 26 and 27 learning communities to in-person learning in the near future to fully bring everyone back to in-person learning.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he is so proud to be a part of Elizabeth and am so grateful to have raised my children in a community that they could experience interacting with people from all over the world as our students do today. Mr. Jacobs stated that it continues to be important to him that we provide our students an education that reflects the diversity and vibrance of our great City and ensures they continue to learn from the experiences of one another. Mr. Jacobs stated that during 2021, we continued to advance the Amistad Curriculum here at the Elizabeth Public Schools through the Amistad Collaborative thanks to the support of the Mount Teman AME Church African Culture Awareness Ministry, New Jersey Association of Black Educators, United Youth of New Jersey, and the NAACP Elizabeth Chapter. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have ensured that our community has recognized and celebrated holidays and special events for various cultures. Mr. Jacobs stated that we have passed Board resolutions this year recognizing important past and current events such as the recognition of Asian hate as a public health crisis, the Tulsa Massacre, and Juneteenth Independence Day which was also officially added as a recognized holiday in our district calendar.

Mr. Jacobs stated that at the beginning, he promised to do everything in his power and work as hard as he could for every child, for every parent, for every staff member, and for every citizen of our great City. Mr. Jacobs stated that after all, we are all here collectively to ensure our children receive the best education possible and improve our community. Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone for their trust and support and hope that you feel that he will leave this post next month having done that for you. Mr. Jacobs thanked our Superintendent, the entire central and school

administrators, teachers, support staff, external partners whose advice and counsel was immeasurable, and his Board colleagues who all work tirelessly every day and exhaust every angle to ensure our children perform their very best in order to achieve their dreams. Mr. Jacobs stated that his opportunity as President has really opened his eyes to the dedication and love for our children that you all have. Mr. Jacobs thanked everyone again from the bottom of his heart.

Mr. Jacobs 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 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. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mr. Jacobs called twice upon the first public participant, Maria Medeiros DaRassi, to address the Board. Maria Medeiros DaRassi did not respond.

Mr. Jacobs called upon the next public participant, Diana Tabor, to address the Board.

Diana Tabor, student, spoke about the curriculum in school.

Mr. Jacobs requested that she give her statement to Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Cedeno for distribution to the Board.

Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mr. Jacobs closed this portion of the meeting.

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 matters, specifically, interviews, appointments, suspension with pay, job description; legal matters, specifically, award of contracts; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, A.R. and O.L. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 8:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Jacobs – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Chevres excused herself from the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, to reconvene in public session at 11:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Jacobs – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs added the following to the agenda:

Minutes of the Meeting of November 23, 2021

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of October 2021

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigative Results

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – School Board Recognition Month

Resolution – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Resolution – Adoption of New Policy and Revised Bylaws

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

Resolution – Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council

Resolution – Authorization to Purchase Property – 121-123 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth

Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Resolution – Right of Entry - NJDOT

Resolution – Approval ESIP Lease Purchase Agreement

Resolution – Remembering Former Principal Cecilia Cosgrove

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – John Markowitz

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Principal – Diane Matos Reis

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – John Byrne

Resolution – Job Description – Transportation Specialist

Resolution – Suspension with pay – K.J.

Resolution – Approving Contract with FourPoint Education Partners LLC for Strategic Planning
2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any questions on the above agenda.

The second reading of the following new policy and revised bylaws was done:

5141.11	Policy	Vaccination and Testing
9322(R)	Bylaw Regulation	Public and Executive Session
9325(X)	Bylaw Exhibit	Meeting Procedures – Order of Business

Mr. Jacobs asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda:

Minutes of the Meeting of November 23, 2021

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of October 2021

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Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigative Results

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – School Board Recognition Month

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Resolution – Appointment of Principal – John Byrne

Resolution – Job Description – Transportation Specialist

Resolution – Suspension with pay – K.J.

Resolution – Approving Contract with FourPoint Education Partners LLC for Strategic Planning

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to adopt the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – G.D., M.G.; Supplemental Personnel Report – J.Z.), Dorgely, Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Jacobs – 6

Negative: None

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer presented the announcements for the month of December. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Covid-19 information and stated that providing our students and team members with a safe learning environment is our top priority. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students and team members should stay home if they have tested positive (viral test) for Covid-19; have pending Covid-19 test results; are sick; or are not fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with a person with Covid-19 in the past fourteen days. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Covid-19 Transmission Level for the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Union County, along with the other 20 counties in the State of New Jersey, has recently returned to the orange designation on the state's Covid-19 transmission level map which indicates there is a high risk of Covid transmission. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we were moderate when we first started the school year but unfortunately, now we are in the orange designation of high risk.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Exclusions Criteria for Persons with Covid-19, Covid-19 Compatible Symptoms, and Close Contacts. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the chart for the exclusion type and the high risk exclusion protocol. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Exclusions from School and stated that parents should not send their children to school when sick. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for school settings, the NJ Department of Health recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school including at least two of the following symptoms: fever, measure or subjective; chills; rigors (shivers); myalgia (muscle aches); headache; sore throat; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea; fatigue; congestion or runny nose **or** at least one of the following: cough; shortness of breath; difficulty breathing; new olfactory disorder; or new taste disorder. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Tips for Symptom Checking and a Symptom Comparison Chart and explained that Covid-19 and the flu have very similar symptoms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is very important for parents to contact their doctors and have them examine their children.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Exclusions from School – Close Contact and stated that a close contact is defined by the CDC as someone who was less than six feet away from an infected person (laboratory confirmed or clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of more than 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period which could be three individual five-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the exclusions, type of settings, vaccinated persons, and individuals who have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the schedule for the City of Elizabeth Free Covid-19 Saliva Testing at the Stephen Sampson Center on Anna Street and the City of Elizabeth

Free Covid-19 Testing at the Erxleben Recreation Center on Richmond Street. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the information is posted on our website, www.epsnj.org.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides showing the Union County vaccination clinics and schedules and stated that the vaccination clinics are open to Union County residents. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Union County Mobile Pop-Up Clinics and explained the schedules. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Union County Vaccines for Home Bound Residents and explained that those who are homebound or have difficulty leaving their home can call a toll-free number to make an appointment to receive a Covid-19 vaccination at home. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Union County Free Covid-19 Test Sites and stated that the free Covid-19 test sites are at Kean University in Union and the Gerald B. Green Building in Plainfield.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Video on Social Media Threatening Violence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it was brought to our attention that a video is circulating on various social media platforms including TicTok and SnapChat warning of nationwide school shootings on December 17. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at this time, the New Jersey Regional Operations and Intelligence Center is unaware of any specific, credible threats to any New Jersey schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that law enforcement had been made aware of the videos that had surfaced and it was determined that the social media post was generic. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it does not specifically mention by name the Elizabeth Public Schools, any of our individual schools, or any schools or districts in New Jersey as a target of any potential violence. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to please understand that we will continue to take all of these allegations seriously and, as a result, the Elizabeth Police Department will have an increased presence around our schools tomorrow.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Remediation Update of School Nos. 26 and 27. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the schedule for the return of staff and students for School No. 26 and stated that for Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 @ 31, all staff will report to the building on Monday, January 3; return of students in grades 6-8 on Thursday, January 6; return of students in grades 3-5 on Friday, January 7; and return of students in grades PreK – 2 on Monday, January 10. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the schedule for the return of staff and students for School No. 27 and stated that for Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27, all staff will return to the building on Tuesday, December 21 and all students will return on Monday, January 3. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are incredibly happy to see that both schools will be opening their doors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she will be providing several meetings with our families in the multiple languages so that she can review this information and everyone can be prepared to return to school.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer wished everyone, on behalf of the Elizabeth Public Schools community, a Happy Holidays to all of our families and all of our team members. Mrs. Hugelmeyer gave a special thank you to our team members who have been working incredibly hard during this time covering classes and helping out in every way possible. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is appreciated and wished everyone a restful holiday.

Superintendent of Schools Ola Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. 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.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for the reports. Mr. Jacobs asked if there were any Board members comments.

Mr. Jacobs stated that tomorrow is the home opener of our Elizabeth Minutemen Boys Basketball Team versus Plainfield here in the Dunn Sports Center. Mr. Jacobs stated that it has been a great year.

On a motion made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Dorgely, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Moreno-Ortega,
Mr. Jacobs – 6

Negative: None

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