

Approved April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
EBOE Meeting

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 28, 2024  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Charlene Dorgely welcomed everyone to the March 28, 2024, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Dorgely called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 5:51 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 March 22, 2024. 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.

“We want to welcome everyone present here at Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 and to our television viewers to this March 28, 2024, 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.

“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. “

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.

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, (joined the meeting at 5:59 p.m.), Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -7

Absent: Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron -2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Chief of Operations, Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy

Counsel Heather Ford, and Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi Esq. of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of the following:

- Lorna M. Walker, Retired 2-hour Food Service, Nicholas Murray Butler No.23 Annex
- Ronald “Ron” Kelly, Retired Guidance Counselor, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy and EHS Boys Basketball Head Coach
- Maria Irene Sanchez, Former Food Service Worker, Robert Morris School No.18
- Salvina Castre, Mother of James Mondesir, Principal, Toussaint Louverture Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

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, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana.

The Star-Spangled Banner was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member, Isaias Rivera

Mrs. Dorgely asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present the Student Representative to the Board.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated it was her pleasure to introduce Alona Calva Giron who is the student representative from John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. She is the valedictorian of her class and likes to help others achieve their goals. At the moment, she is the Student Government President. Recently, Ms. Giron, had the honor to receive the Princeton Prize award for Race Relations for helping advance race equity here in Elizabeth. Ms. Giron is a Student Success fellow at the Student Success Center for Make the Road New Jersey. Here, she assists her peers in completing college and financial aid applications. After school, Ms. Giron is a Youth Power Project leader, a group of students that fight for race equity in their communities. Next year Ms. Giron will be studying at Johns Hopkins University. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Ms. Giron to join the board members on the dais.

Board President Mrs. Dorgely asked Mr. Kennedy to have the record reflect Ms. Giron’s attendance at tonight’s meeting. It was duly noted by Mr. Kennedy.

Mrs. Dorgely read the following statement:

Citizens may address the Board.

“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 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. Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies were provided next to the sign in sheet)”.

The following rules shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced.
2. No personal attacks on individuals or naming of individuals.

3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Comments will not be debated.

Any person in violation of the Policy will be warned, and their comments terminated if needed. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting.”

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

Mrs. Dorgely called upon the first public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about a school accident and nurses response and a recent IEP ruling by the Department of Education.

Mrs. Dorgely thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Dorgely called upon the next public participant, Alex Prado, to address the Board to address the Board.

Mr. Prado spoke in support of his School 22, Orchestra Teacher

Mrs. Dorgely thanked him for her comments.

Mrs. Dorgely called upon the next public participant, Cesar Martinez, to address the Board to address the Board.

Mr. Martinez spoke in support of his School 22, Orchestra Teacher

Mrs. Dorgely thanked him for her comments.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Dr. Cedenio to meet with the two young men as well as Mr. Prado’s mother, who had accompanied him, about their concerns.

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

Mrs. Dorgely stated that for the presentation portion of our meeting this evening, we have created a video highlighting the initiative sponsored by Board Member, Maria Carvalho, for Women’s History Month. Throughout the month of March, the stories of many prominent local women leaders who have had a profound impact on our community and beyond were shared in our schools. We also hosted a speaker series of Women Leaders in Law Enforcement, Fire and Crisis/Emergency Management that engaged with our high school students. We concluded by welcoming local and state dignitaries to share their wisdom with our elementary students. A video was played celebrating Women’s History Month.

Board president Dorgely recognized Women Leaders who were at the meeting, including Board Counsel Heather Ford, Dorothy McMullen, Sandra Nunes, Amy Gil, Kathy Badalis, and Jamie Leavitt all of whom, were presented with flowers as part of the Women’s History Month celebration.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented her report to the Community.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer announced that it was National School Social Workers Month. A video was played in honor of our School Socials Workers who serve our district with essential support services for students, families,

and Staff. She expressed her thanks to all the school based social workers who work so diligently to help students in all facets of school life, especially mental health.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer announced that Elmora School No.12 had revalidated its status as an Avid Demonstration School. The school hosted an Avid Showcase on March 21<sup>st</sup> where evaluators and observers from the Elizabeth School District and several communities from New Jersey and Delaware visited the school. Elmora School No 12 was praised for its vibrant college culture and the bravery of its students for participating in philosophical shares, Socratic seminars and sharing their binders with their guests. In addition, Avid validators noted that in the future, students would be academically well positioned for college and/or career readiness. Elmora University, as the school is referred to in its halls and classrooms, has set clear goals for students to graduate high school and college and be ready to start their careers.

The Superintendent was proud to announce that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy School Counselor, Ms. Valerie Hendon was awarded the “Counselor of the County” by the New Jersey School Counselor Association, (NJSCA), at their thirty-eight, (38th), annual Professional Awards Recognition Program held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, at the College of New Jersey in Ewing Township. The NJSCA honored School Counselors from each of New Jersey’s twenty-one, (21) counties who were nominated and voted on by their county peers. Ms. Hendon has served the Elizabeth School District for over 28 years, beginning as a teacher before transitioning to her guidance counselor role in 2003.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer reported on the Night of Champions, which was held on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. at the Dunn Sports Center. This event celebrated the Group 4 State Championship won by the Boy’s Minutemen Basketball team as well as the Lady Minutemen Basketball Team capturing their first Union County Tournament Championship in over twenty-five (25) years. Also, current Athletic Director and former boys’ basketball coach Mr. Ben Candelino was recognized and honored for his induction into the NJSIAA Hall of Fame as one of seven (7) luminaries inducted in the Class of 2024.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer announced that Juan Pablo Duarte and Jose Julian Marti School No. 28, has received a two-thousand-dollar (\$2,000) grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools, sponsored by the New Jersey Education Association, (NJEA). School 28 was one of 38 schools/districts to receive a grant which supports sustainability issues such as recycling of water bottles, hydroponic gardens, climate change awareness, bike racks etc. The grant that School No. 28 will be used towards the building of an outdoor classroom and other scientific resources.

The Superintendent recognized Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy sophomore Carma Beech Wilson and senior Jayleen Mingo who placed second and third respectively in Young Playwrights competition sponsored by the Theater Group. The purpose of the competition is encouraging the next generation of theater practitioners and audiences and bringing their works to life. Ms. Beech Wilson won second place for her play, Again Tomorrow, while Mr. Mingo captured third place for his work, The Desk Gamble. Students won monetary prizes as well as having their places read aloud online during the awards presentations.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer announced that due to the weather-related closure of schools on January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Elizabeth Public Schools calendar has will be revised as follows:

June 24<sup>th</sup> (Monday) Schools close at 12:15 for Students and Team members.

June 25<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) Schools close at 12:15 for 10 Month and Administrators.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer informed parents and students that the Gifted and Talented Program Application period has been open since February 27<sup>th</sup> and will close on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer let 8th grade students and their parents/guardians know that High School Information sessions for all eight of our District High Schools will be held from March 28<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup>. To ensure timely consideration of your High School selections, registrations must be completed through the Parent PowerSchool Portal from March 28 through April 18<sup>th</sup>. Students will be notified of acceptance by June 2024.

The Superintendent reminded parents and students that all juniors will be taking the S.A.T. on Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, any seniors who have not previously taken the S.A.T. will be administered the test at this time, so the graduation requirement of taking the S.A.T. will be fulfilled.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer announced that the New Jersey Student Learning assessments will be administered from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The schedule is as follows:

- Grade Level 3-5 English Language Arts – May 6-7/Math May 13-15/Science May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 5 only.
- Grade Level 6-8 English Language Arts - May 8-9/Math May 20-22 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, May 20 & 21 MS Algebra and Geometry/Science May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 8 only.
- High School Grade 9 English Language Arts / Math May 20<sup>th</sup> & May 21<sup>st</sup> Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2. Science May 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Grade 11.

Parents and students will be informed of the testing schedules via letters, posts on the District web site, and by classroom reminders.

The Superintendent announced that due to the change in the school calendar, High School Graduation Dates had to be adjusted. Please see the new dates for each High School:

- Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy – June 24<sup>th</sup>
- J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy – June 24<sup>th</sup>
- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy – June 24<sup>th</sup>
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy – June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson STEM Academy – June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy – June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy – June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Thomas A Edison Career and Technical Academy -June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer wanted to acknowledge the work and contributions of our Director of Equity and Inclusion, Mr. Samuel Ettienne, in putting together Parent Workshops throughout the District. More Information regarding these development workshops may be found on the Elizabeth Public Schools website.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer showed a slide listing the celebrations and observances that the Schools and District will be honoring during the month of April- they include:

- National Vice Principals Week- April 1-5
- National Volunteer Week – April 21-27
- Earth Day – April 22
- Administrative Professionals Day – April 24
- National Autism Acceptance Month
- Jazz Appreciation Month
- National Poetry Month

Mrs. Dorgely asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Superintendent's Report to the Community. Student Representative Ms. Calva Giron asked what support the District was providing students with the new S.A.T. test taking methodology? Mrs. Hugelmeyer responded that Guidance Counselors throughout our high schools were working with students to familiarize them with the new format i.e. from pencil and paper to Digital test taking.

Mr. Jacobs commented on his visit to the School No. 13 Career Fair. He was very impressed by the job Mrs. Stewart, the principal, and her staff had done in putting this event together. Moreover, he was quite pleased with the number and cross section of professionals that came out to show our disadvantaged students that they too can aspire to these professions. In addition, Mr. Jacobs visited School 12 during the Avid revalidation process on March 21<sup>st</sup>. He complimented Principal Melissa Kulick on the wonderful things being done at her school.

Before initiating a review of items that were proposed to be on the Agenda for this evening's meeting, Mrs. Dorgely thanked all the Director's in attendance. She commenced a review of the agenda items and instructed the Board members to ask questions regarding specific items.

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (February 22, 2024; March 18, 2024) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (January 31st, 2024) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report/Supplemental Personnel Report, Chief of Operations Mr. Francisco Cuesta provided the following information. There were 15 changes of salary as staff members obtained Master's Degrees or reached six-year level plus a Custodian obtained their Boiler's License. There were a handful of transfers which were necessitated by personal request, legal issues or Special Needs children being moved to another school. He also noted that there were a few resignations. In addition, Mr. Cuesta reported that there were 11 retirements on the agenda, he congratulated all those reaching this milestone. He specifically noted that Ms. Doris Farrell, principal of School No. 19, would be retiring at the end of the school year. She is clearly a dedicated professional who cares deeply about the school community. Also, Ms. Mary Jane Lefano who works in staff development will be retiring. During her career as an educator, Ms. Lefano has shown the true essence of dedication, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the Public Schools of the City of Elizabeth. She has been a teacher, mentor, guide, and a paragon of support for so many in our District. The final retirement Mr. Cuesta noted was that of Ms. Josephine Rodriguez, a teacher at School No.6. She has devoted 38 incredible years to the teaching profession and has touched the lives of countless students, colleagues, and members of the community. As one of her vice principals noted Mrs. Rodriguez's kindness, truthfulness and her unwavering commitment to education personified her career. Mr. Cuesta said he first met Mrs. Rodriguez as a high school student and that for the past 35 years, she has been an extraordinary colleague, friend, and neighbor. He truly believes her services will be sorely missed as she moves onto retirement.

Tab 2a) was added to the Agenda with pages 12 and 17 to be tabled - to be discussed in private

Tab 3) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4) Superintendent's Reports-Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Ben Candelino, Director of Athletics to speak about his items on Tab 4.

Mr. Candelino explained that three (3) wrestling athletes/students and five (5) coaches traveled to and participated in the NJSIAA Wrestling Championships in Atlantic City on February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 2, 2024. The reason this is being presented after the fact is that the qualifying tournaments took place after the last Board meeting and prior to this meeting. Therefore, it was not ascertainable at the time who would qualify for the State Championships. Mr. Candelino also requested that Girl's Cheerleading Coach Sandra Evaristo be able to attend the New Jersey Cheerleading Conference at the College of New Jersey on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The final request

was for seven (7) coaches and twenty-two student athletes from the Elizabeth High School Boys and Girl Track Team to attend the Penn Relays on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania from April 24-27 (Girls) April 25-28(Boys).

Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services requested approval of nine (9) Social Workers to attend the 2024 NASW-NJ Annual Conference in Atlantic City on April 14-16. He also requested approval for thirty-five (35) school counselors and himself to attend the NJSCA Spring 2024 School Counselor Conference at Kean University on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Sandra Nunes, Director of Bilingual/ESL education requested that two supervisors be able to attend a professional development session titled “Bilingualism & Disabilities” : Critical Steps to Differentiate at TCNJ, Ewing NJ Campus on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning requested permission for Lilianna D. Dias, Vice Principal to attend the NJTESOL/NJBE Conference in New Brunswick, NJ on May 30-31, 2024.

Tab 4a)- was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4b)- was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4bb)- was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4c – Board Member Stephanie Goncalves Pestana complimented the staff for the work being done to increase field trips. Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Mrs. Judy Finch Johnson, to summarize the field trips on the agenda to be approved: Mrs. Finch Johnson, (149) Field Trips that need to be approved at this meeting. Of these trips, eighty-seven (87) are for grades K-8 while sixty-two (62) are for high school students. Among the field trips there are thirty-two (32) trips to universities and colleges and four (4) to various competitions.

Tab 4c was added to the Agenda.

Tabs 4d would be reported on later by the Superintendent.

Tab 5, Authorizations Report- Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services, to give a summary of his authorization requests. Dr Ojeda was seeking authorization for a select number of students from five (5) schools to attend and participate in the Special Olympics Track and Field event at Old Bridge High School on May 4, 2024. Authorization was also sought for the Child Study Team Recognition Luncheon on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Garwood NJ.

Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Director of Special Projects sought authorization for students from the Elizabeth Public Schools in grades 6-8 and our high school students to participate in the Union County Teen Arts Festival on May 16 and 17 at the New Jersey Trailside Science Center at the Watchung Reservation in Mountainside NJ. In addition, authorization was sought for all students in the Elizabeth Public Schools to participate in the “Elizabeth City Wide Art Show” organized by the Mayor’s Office. Dr. McMullen also sought approval for the Elizabeth Board of Education, (all schools), to continue to accept unlimited online audiobook access from Learning Ally, through the Governor’s Literacy Initiative funding through December 2024 at no cost to the Board. She also recommended that authorization be given to the Band Parents Organization to hold a Salsa Night at Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy on May 4, 2024. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Elizabeth High School Marching Band to offset future events.

Mr. Samuel Etienne, Director of Equity, and Inclusion recommended that the budget amendment for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act, Secondary Federal Perkins Grant, for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$313,001.00 be as filed in the office of School Business

Administrator/Board Secretary. It is further recommended that the School Business Administrator be authorized to make payments in accordance with this budget.

Dr. Kathy Badalis, Director of Staff Development, asked for authorization for the Elizabeth Board of Education to apply for the 2024 Union County Digs In. This is a school garden grant program to fund supplies to use at School No.28's school garden, not to exceed \$1,000.00 Her second request was that Elizabeth Board of Education to apply for the NJDOE Teach STEM Classes in Nonpublic Schools grant opportunity on behalf of the Jewish Educational Center, for two teachers for grades 6-12 from July 1, 2024, through June 20, 2025. The teachers would teach outside their normal work hours. It was further recommended that the Elizabeth Board of Education be authorized to accept Title1 SLA Part A funds through the 2023-2024 ESEA/ESSA Consolidated Application for School No. 28 in the amount of \$71,400. 00

Ms. Amy Gil, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment sought authorization to file a Corrective Action Plan for a student possessing a cell phone in a test site during the ACCESS for ELLS. It was found that the student did not use or access the phone but nonetheless a Corrective Action Plan had to be filed. In the future cell phones will not be allowed during the administration of any assessments etc.

Dr Sandra Nunes, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education, asked that it be authorized the New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children (NJCICI) to present an information session on Know Your Rights to Multilingual Learners in the afterschool Bilingual Achievement Strategies Program on April 23, 2024, at Halsey Academy.

Dr. Jennifer Cedenno, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning summarized the Donations that the District wished to accept for this month:

\$1,000.00 From Handsome Energy Systems Inc., Linden, NJ for Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy, Odyssey of the Mind.

Games, Pizza, and Water from ST Math for Mabel G. Holmes School No.5 for Family Literacy and Math Night on March 21, 2024

Games, Pizza, and Water from ST Math for Elmora School No. 12 for Family Math Night on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

35 Backpacks and School Supplies from Isabella Chiaravall for Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 students.

4000.00 from the Empower Somerset Partnership to be used toward EHS- Frank J. Cicarell Academy Empower Team Leader Leandro Felicio's stipend.

5 books from the Union County Board of Commissioners for William F. Halloran School No.22

Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch Johnson, informed the Board that she had 109 Fund Raising Requests that were seeking approval/authorization tonight. Among the fundraisers are T- shirt sales, car washes, movie nights, Mother's Day plant and candy sales, Scholastic Book sales at numerous locations, and Spring Dances.

Board Member Carvalho, asked about plans for the SLA funds referenced above. Dr. Badalis replied that at School No. 28 there are before school, lunch time, and after school tutoring programs in place. Funds will also be used to purchase needed supplies. Furthermore, there is an Attendance Task Force to encourage students to be consistently on time as well as reduce absenteeism. Finally, an Alternative to Suspension program has been implemented that will be supported by the SLA funds. Mrs. Carvalho was particularly pleased about the Alternative to Suspension Program.



Mrs. Barbosa asked Dr Ojeda if this was the first time that the District was hosting the Child Study Team luncheon. Dr. Ojeda replied in the affirmative.

Board President Dorgely questioned Dr. Badalis if this was the first year that the District was applying for the STEM Grant for teaching at the J.E.C. Dr. Badalis replied that this was the third year of the program. The mechanics of the grant require that the teachers apply to the state of NJ to participate in the program. From the pool of applicants, the J.E.C. selects the teachers. For the coming year the two teachers from our District were approved by the state and were selected by the J.E.C. They were the only two from our District that applied for these positions.

Tab 5) Authorizations Report and Tab 5a) Supplemental Authorizations Report were added to the Agenda.

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report - Mrs. Carvalho asked about the payment to Pillar Properties. Mr. Kennedy explained that this is a six-month rent payment that was being made in advance, rather than having to pay a security deposit.

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 6a) Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 7, 7a) Award of Contracts Report/Supplemental Award of Contracts report.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Etienne, Director of Equity, and Inclusion to speak about the Contracts he had on the Agenda for approval this evening:

- Rutgers University – will allow Elizabeth High School students to earn college credits as part of the Rutgers School of Health’s Dual Credit Program for High School students for a three-year period from April 1, 2024. These courses are taught at the same pace and rigor as courses taught on Rutgers’s campuses.
- International Institute for Restorative Practices - Three (3) Professional development sessions for up to 90 teachers on restorative practices. Also, a restorative Practice seminar for Principals and

The Superintendent asked Dr. Kathy Badalis, Director of Professional Development to address the Contracts she was presenting for approval:

- Elevate Educators LLC. – Professional Development training for teachers at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., Health, and Public Safety Academy.
- Elevate Educators LLC. – Conduct Professional Development activities for teachers at Harmony Christian Academy – a non-public school in Elizabeth.
- Danielson Group Inc. – Provide support to the District and offer professional development opportunities for administrators on various dates from June to August of 2024.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer called on, Athletic Director, Ben Candelino, to discuss the contracts he had on the Agenda tonight:

- Nikhil Badlani Foundation – to allow Thomas Edison Career and Technical Academy Students to participate in the workshops/assemblies entitled “Drivers Ed Though Art Program”, this program supports the New Jersey Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards through the 2023-2024 school year.

- Automobile Association of America – Implement their Shifting Gears Driver Education Department program for the 2023-2024 school year. This program will address the changes in the Marijuana laws and their impact on drivers.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, to discuss the contracts which he was seeking approval for this evening:

- Bookelicious Inc. – conduct four forty-five-minute student reading assemblies in four schools, (School No's 2. /15. /21. / 22.) and provide books and bookmarks to help students establish their own personal libraries.
- Crisis Prevention Institute – train selected District Security Personnel members in workplace violence principles and skills. Additional training in non-violent intervention techniques will also be taught.
- Seeds Access Changes Everything – enter into a partnership that allows SEEDS to help prepare motivated, high achieving, low-income students for admission to private schools and colleges.
- Stepping Stones Group, LLC. – Hire three (3) Registered Behavior Technicians to support students in Schools No.1/3/28 who are on Behavior Intervention Plans as well as train teachers and staff to better work with students with behavioral challenges. This contract will run from April 8<sup>th</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Avid Center – provide a two-day 12-hour professional development training “AVID Path to Schoolwide, Site Leaders” to forty (40) EPS administrators on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Prevention Links – provide Narcan Training for the school nurses and security guards.
- MedServ Healthcare Solutions, Inc. – provide CPR/AED training session for Principals and Assistant Superintendents on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- I.D.M. Medical Gas Company – provide annual oxygen inspection and refill oxygen cylinders or hydrostatic testing of cylinders.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Mr. Matthew Glackin, Director of Security to speak about the one contract he had on the agenda:

- Black River Defensive Solutions LLC. – Provide “Stop Bleeding Control” training to 20 school security guards. This training on April 5<sup>th</sup> will train personnel to stop uncontrollable bleeding in emergency situations.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Ms. Jamie Leavitt, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, to present the contracts she had on the agenda for approval.

- R.P Baking – purchase and delivery of rolls and bread for the Food and Nutrition Service Dept. for the 2024/2025 School Year
- Metropolitan Foods DBA Driscoll Foods – purchase of Fluid Juice Products for the Food and Nutrition Services Dept for the 2024/2025 School Year.
- Derle Farms, Inc – for the purchase and delivery of Dairy Products for the Food and Nutrition Services Dept for the 2024/2025 School Year.
- ACL & R Supply, LLC – to provide Chemical Cleaning Supply items for the Food Services Division for the 2024/2025 School Year.

- Rejection of Bid – Reject the bid for Pizza products for the Food and Nutrition Dept. due to modifications to the bid specifications.
- Rejection of Bid - Reject all bids due to significant calculation errors and it substantially exceeds the estimates for the goods or services.

The Superintendent asked Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Director of Special Projects, to review the contracts she sought approval for tonight.

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – Provide for Professional Development in Amira, (In person coaching Grades K-5). Amira assesses oral reading fluency, screens for dyslexia, and provides reading practices in both English and Spanish for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Newgrange School of Princeton Inc – provide a Wilson Reading System (WRS) Introductory Course Workshop from April 23 – 25, 2024.
- Institute for Multi-Sensory Education LLC (IMSE)- Conduct an Orton Gillingham (OG) Plus or Morphology Plus Training for up to 29 teachers. This training will discuss how to teach fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension using OG philosophy of multi-sensory, sequential, direct instruction. Trainings to take place May 13-17, 2024.
- Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. - provide a museum visit at the Visual Arts Center for up to 450 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from 26 schools. (Schools No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9, 12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27,28, 29, & 30). These visits will expand student's scope of interest, knowledge, and learning experiences through art. This program addresses the New Jersey student learning standard for Social Studies.
- LH Creative, LLC – contract with Louis Hellinger, LH Creative, LLC as the Assistant Color Guard Director for the winter/spring 2023-2024 EHS Winter Guard from April 1 – to June 24, 2024.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer called on Ms. Sandra Nunes, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education to discuss the contracts she sought approval for this evening.

- Carnegie Learning -to provide job embedded professional development services to support mathematics instruction for bilingual teachers in grades 9-12. This encompasses the 2024 Bilingual and ESL summer programs from July to August.
- Carnegie Learning -to provide job embedded professional development services to support mathematics instruction for bilingual teachers in grades K-8. This encompasses the 2024 Bilingual and ESL summer programs from July to August.
- Vista Higher Learning – provide professional development to World language teachers (K-12) to enhance usage of the Vista Higher Learning Platform to support World Languages curricula and instruction. This will take place in September of 2024 for the 2024/2025 school year.
- Vista Higher Learning – provide professional development to World language teachers (K-12) to enhance usage of the Vista Higher Learning Platform to support World Languages curricula and instruction. This took place in March of 2024 for the 2023/2024 school year.
- Children's Literacy Initiative -to provide job embedded professional development services to support literacy instruction for Bilingual and ESL teachers in grades K-8. This supports the 2024 Bilingual and ESL summer programs.
- Standards Solution Holdings, LLC dba Inspired Instruction LLC. – provide customized professional development for English Language Arts and Mathematics teachers in grades 9-12 in

preparation for the NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA). Training will be provided to General Education teachers in September 2024.

The Superintendent asked Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services to present the contracts he had on the docket for approval:

- Morris-Union Jointure Commission – provide for Home Behavior Analysis for a special education student that is attending the Developmental Learning Center in New Providence Nj.
- Kean University – PSYD Program – Contract with Kean University to serve as an externship site for their combined School and Clinical Psychology Program (PsyD) from September 1, 2024- June 30, 2027.
- Rescind Contract(s) with Home Care Therapies, LLC, dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing. Due to changing or reduced needs three contracts were rescinded. Care for Special Educations students J.S.V. /S.S. T/ L.P. were covered by these contracts.
- Home Care Therapies, LLC, dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing – provide nursing services for S.S.C. a special education student at School No. 28.
- Amend Contract with Progressive Therapy of NJ. – adjust terms of contract to reflect reduced need.

Board President Charlene Dorgely thanked all the Directors who presented and explained the details behind the proposed contract approvals. She asked if there were any questions from the Board Members regarding the Contracts approval presentations.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Dr. Ojeda if the contract with Kean University was an addition to the externships that were in place or was it replacing an existing program? Dr. Ojeda replied that this agreement was a new program. Mrs. Carvalho questioned Mr. Etienne about the number of participants in the dual credit program with Rutgers University. He replied he would get back to her with specifics. An additional question was raised regarding the contract with Elevated Educators for Harmony Christian Academy. Dr Badalis explained that non-public schools are entitled to “Title” funds, but the Elizabeth District manages the funds. The District works with the non-public schools and presents the contracts for approval.

Student Representative Alona Calva Giron asked which schools were covered by SEEDS. Mr. DiDonato explained that all students in grades 7 and grades 9-11 can apply to SEEDS. Respective school counselors work with students and their families to avail themselves of the benefits of the program.

Tabs 7, 7a and 7b were added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Dorgely asked the Student Representative, Alonda Calva Giron, to give her report to the community. Good evening honored members of the Elizabeth Board of Education, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, Principal Mrs. Jimenez and the public. I am Alondra Calva Giron, and it is my pleasure to represent John E Dwyer Technology Academy on this night to highlight our students’ achievements.

Elizabeth Public Schools strives and accomplishes the epitome of a promising future filled with education and care.

John E Dwyer Technology Academy promotes a welcoming environment for newly arrived and current students to excel and perform at their highest potential. Dwyer paid tribute to Black History Month through their ceremony composed of dance performances celebrating the impact of African Americans on dance and music. The National English Honor Society kicked off the year with the school newspaper. Students can submit articles ranging from food reviews, philosophical reflections, and current school events to engage in expressing their literary love. The National English Honor Society hosted a Book Drive in the month of March. Throughout April, the club will leave book stations around the school so students will have the chance to explore all genres of literature.

Dwyer had the honor to be recertified as a 2024 NJ School of Character in which they demonstrated the support behind the social emotional wellness of students and ensured they have a sense of belonging. Students thrive in Dwyer's environment as our school pushes a culture of matriculation. College culture is represented at Dwyer and no better proof of that than earning the accolade and distinction as an AP Honor Roll School. Our school demonstrates a clear and effective commitment to promoting equitable access to higher education.

Read Across America showcased how inclusive Dwyer represents amongst the MC, POE, and ESL program to ensure that no one reads alone. The "No One Reads Alone" campaign has proven that Dwyer attests to the diversity and quota of facilitating the love of literature through Dr. Seuss books. Women's History Month at Dwyer celebrated the accomplishments of women in our lives and history. JEDTA celebrates the progress, equality, and empowerment of our women's dreams. The Student Government had the opportunity to hand out carnations to the women staff to show love for all the hard work they provide. To recap Women's History Month, the police department talked to the 10th graders of their experience and life as a woman and as a cop.

Meanwhile the rest of the high schools have been busy with their accomplishments and opportunities for their students. Edison continues to provide extensive opportunities within their cosmetology program as proven in their recent trip to the International Beauty Show in New York to educate future beauty professionals. Jefferson presented their Spring Play, "Once Upon a Mattress", to deliver an unforgettable comedic experience through humor and music. Frank J Cicarell and Jefferson collaborate to tackle "Relay for Life". This opportunity to come together to celebrate cancer survivors, loved ones lost, and fight back against cancer truly exemplify the compassion shared amongst students. Hamilton highlights Women's History Month through their International Women's Symposium, in which women from all walks of life such as alumni, teachers, and more, empowered students to give them the courage and motivation to pursue their passions and further their education.

Dwyer had the chance to celebrate achievements throughout the academic school year. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Jimenez, the faculty were able to enjoy a potluck to showcase kindness and community building on Unity Day. Dwyer has the honor and privilege to be revalidated as an AVID National Demonstration school. With this triumph, students succeed both academically and socially in executing distinctive college readiness. I have observed, first-hand, the exceptional academic potential that is within all of my classmates. I have seen the heights we can soar to within the rigor of our current curricula, and I feel as though we can soar even higher with the proper supports in place. With many colleges becoming mandatory to submit the SAT, it is essential to ensure students have the best chance to score at their highest academic potential. The SAT is one of the most important exams for any high school student to strengthen their college application. I understand the College Board offers online SAT practices; however, students prefer in person training. A study from the NIH (National Institute of Health), reports that over 60% of students prefer in person instruction over online. From my past experience, COVID showed how the guidance of a teacher in person helped me understand the material better. Additionally, considering how a majority of students at Dwyer, Halsey, and Edison, are bilingual, it would be

helpful to get in person instruction as this test is new for many of them. As an Avid National Demonstration school, I would like to see a district wide SAT prep available, bi-weekly, for all high school students. In these sessions, it would include practice for the English and Math portions. The concept would be similar to the NJGPA practice that was offered in 2023.

The fact that I stand before you today with this opportunity to discuss school matters is truly a testament to the Board's efforts to include student voices into the structure of our school system. A cooperative, student centered approach to policy is crucial in creating an equitable and progressive school environment. I thank you endlessly for this opportunity and assure you I do not take it lightly.

I would like to thank my parents, brother, sisters, friends, and loved ones, for supporting and encouraging my dreams in my education. I would like to show special gratitude for Mrs. Jimenez and the school counselors for acting as a support system throughout my high school years. Moving forward, I have had the honor to receive the Princeton Prize Award in advancing racial equity in my community. With this said, I am excited to see what Elizabeth Public Schools has in store for the future to develop the heart and spirit of our town. Like Selena said, "If you have a dream, don't let anyone take it away. And always believe that the impossible is possible."

Mrs. Dorgely asked each of the Committee Chairs to present the minutes from their respective March Committee Meetings.

### **Educational Management Committee**

March 6, 2024

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Stan Neron, Board Vice President, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member/Chairperson of the Educational Management Committee; Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Member, Maria Carvalho, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

The Educational Management Committee reviewed the data presented for the total number of field trips scheduled by school.

The Committee reviewed the second marking period attendance data. There were 28,308 students enrolled in the three (3) early childhood centers, 26 elementary schools, and eight (8) high schools. Students attending school at Pre-K providers and in out-of-district placements are excluded. Of the total population, 15,231 (**53.8%**) have attended at least 95% of their possible days. There are 6,068 students (**21.4%**) who are currently deemed as chronically absent, which is defined as attending school 90% of possible days or less.

The Committee reviewed the academic performance during marking period 2, including benchmarks, final marking period grades, and GPA for high school students. The highlights included performance in the second marking period this year having showed improvements in both ELA and Math. As of the end of the second marking period of the 2023-2024 school year, **52.2%** of high school students have earned a GPA of 3.0 or better. Participation in the Panorama Survey for students in grades 3 – 12 included a participation rate was 98.4%. Lastly, as of the end of January 2024, our buses had an 93% "on-time" rate. Our district buses were on time 94% of the time and our contractor buses were on time 91% of the time.

### **Special Education Committee**

March 7, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

**Attendees:** Stan Neron, Board Vice President, Iliana Chevres, Board Member/Chairperson of the Special Education Committee; Diane Barbosa, Board Member, Isaias Rivera, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services.

The committee discussed the security and safety measures in our schools. A full report will be shared with the Special Education Committee by Richard Shaughnessy, Supervisor of Security.

The committee was interested in the professional development offerings on the topic of managing challenging student behaviors. Handle with Care training was discussed. Handle With Care emphasizes models for de-escalating tension in individuals and groups, as well as working with staff on approaches to building effective relationships and supporting those in times of need. The training is offered to general education and special education team members in the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training protocol, which focus on de-escalation and direct support techniques for those in need.

Plans are underway for Autism Awareness Month, including school-day events aimed at celebrating those with autism and school pride events aimed at showing recognition for autism programs and special education team-members. Schools are currently in the planning process for their events. The Division of Special Services is also supporting our Union County Board of County Commissioners and the Union County Department of Human Services (through the Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs) in organizing our county Autism Acceptance Celebration on Saturday, April 20, 10:00am-12:00pm. in Mattano Park in Elizabeth. The event will include music, games, and light refreshments, as well as community service opportunities for our high school students.

We currently have plans to have a table with parent resources available at our college fair on Wednesday, April 17, at the Dunn Sport Center. We are also confirming a tentative date in May for our training with the county surrogate on guardianship. Additionally, under the leadership of Sam Etienne, Director of Equity and Inclusion, the virtual parent workshops are currently underway and are open to all parents.

Our last SEPAC meeting was on Wednesday, March 6. At the meeting, we discussed options for upcoming presentations for parents, draft by-laws, and addressed parent questions.

Our students with disabilities have been participating in various school-based extracurricular activities, that include:

- Saturday Bowling Clinic
- Saturday Soccer Athletic Clinic
- Saturday Recreation Program at George Washington Academy School No. 1
- Saturday Special Olympics Celebration

The director of Special Services shared that the ESSER/ARP programs are under review for inclusion into our 2024-2025 district budget. All of the positions funded in ARP have been incorporated into the district budget. We currently have included 12 new Autism classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Finance Committee**

March 11, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**Attendees:** Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Finance Committee; Stan Neron, Board Vice President, Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Bob Varady, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, Rajeev Malhotra, Comptroller and Tracy Crosby, Director of Early Childhood.

The Finance Committee discussed the 2024-2025 Early Childhood budget. On February 29, 2024, the Elizabeth Public Schools received the Projected 2024-2025 State School Aid – Preschool Education Aid in a total of \$43,931,635 for 2,770 general education students for the 2024-2025 school year. This represents a reduction of \$3,664,905. The Elizabeth Public Schools had submitted a budget projecting it would serve 3,175 general education students. This was inclusive of 2,450 preschool students in-district, 540 preschool students at provider sites, and 185 preschool students at Head Start. The Finance Committee discussed advocating it to be fully funded based on the projection submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education.

### **Finance Committee**

March 13, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Finance Committee; Stan Neron, Board Vice President, Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member, Ed Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, Rajeev Malhotra, Comptroller, Dieter Lerch, Accounting Consultant and Julius Consoni, Accounting Consultant.

The committee met to review the submission of the 2024-2025 Tentative Budget. The following items were reviewed:

- Comparative Overview Analysis of the 2024-2025 Budget prepared by our Independent Accounting Consultant Dieter Lerch.
- Budgeted Appropriated Expenditure Comparative Analysis of the 2024-2025 Budget prepared by our Independent Accounting Consultant Dieter Lerch.
- Allocation of Increased State Aid
- Budget Highlights: No tax levy, acquisition of Immaculate Conception for JVJ Stem Academy 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Annex, Expansion of School No. 9 Annex B, sustaining \$5.2 million in ARP programs and 146 new positions.
- The Board Resolution for the Adoption of the 2024-2025 Tentative Budget and submission to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools will be presented at Special Board Meeting on March 18, 2024. The Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 2, 2024.
- **Legal Committee**
- March 13, 2024
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.



- **Attendees:** Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President, Stan Neron, Board Vice President/Chairperson of the Legal Committee; Iliana Chevres, Board Member, Isaias Rivera, Board Member, Michael Simitz, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.
- The committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the SEPAC Policy. The First Reading of the SEPAC policy will be at the March 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- A request was made by the committee for a summary of the status of cases.

Mr. Jacobs asked if the data referenced in the Education Management Committee Report would be uploaded to the Board Cloud. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is in the Board cloud and will give access to non-members of the Education Management Committee.

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Mr. Kennedy did the First Reading of Policy and Regulation 1221 – Special Education Parent and Advisory Committee.

Resolutions 10 to 10p: were added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Dorgely wanted to acknowledge the following events that the District would be celebrating in the upcoming month of April:

- National Vice Principals Week April 1-5
- National Volunteer Week April 21-27
- Jazz Appreciation Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Autism Acceptance Month
- Administrative Professional's Day – April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to going into Private Session, Mrs. Dorgely thanked the Police Dept., Security Guards, The Kitchen Staff, Custodians, Eric Kulick the photographer, the District Cabinet as well as parents who attended the meeting in support of students.

Board President, Mrs. Dorgely then asked for a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of:

Personnel Matters, specifically Principal Meet and Greet, Abandonment of Position B.C., Administrative Leave with Pay A.A., Suspension without Pay P.C. and J.I., Personnel Report, EEA Contractual Matter.

Legal matters, Litigation, specifically settlement of special education matter, and Workers Compensation Matters P.H. and L.M., Consent for Liquor License

Contractual Matters, Authorization – Color Guard Field Trip  
H.I.B. Appeal

The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to go into private session at 8:03 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -7

Negative: none

Mrs. Carvalho left the meeting at 11:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mrs. Chèvres to return to public session at 11:04 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -6

Negative: none

The following items were added to the Agenda:

Resolution – Abandonment of Position - B.C.

Resolution – Suspension without pay – P.C.

Resolution – Suspension without pay – J.I.

Resolution – Suspension with pay pending investigation – A.A.

Personnel Report – 2b

Resolution – Consent for Liquor License

Resolution – Settlement Agreement B.R. & N.R. o/b/o Y.R. vs. EBOE

Authorization for Color Guard Competition

Resolution – Appointment of Principal School # 19.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mrs. Cheveres to approve the additional Agenda items.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -

Negative: none

Mrs. Dorgely asked for a motion to approve the entire Agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve the entire Agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, (with abstentions on Tab 7 pg. 4 and pg. 18 -Contracts with Valenca Restaurant Mrs. Chevres (with an abstention on Tab 7 pg. 21 – Contract with Prevention Links), Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana (with abstentions on Tab 7. Pg 5 –Contract with Galloping Hill Golf Course and pg. 10 Contract with Union County Sheriff's office.) Mr. Rivera. Mrs. Dorgely (with abstentions on tab 4b – use of facility by Zeta Beta Sorority Tab 7, pg. 5Contract with Galloping Hill Golf Course and pg.5 Contract with Union County Sheriff's office. Mrs. Dorgely also cast a nay vote on the Suspension without pay -P.C.)

Negative: none

Mrs. Dorgely asked Mrs. Hugelmeyer to present the H.I.B. Report for the month of February.

### **HIB Presentation for the March Board of Education Meeting 3/28/24**

- 1.) Pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, 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 the investigation and include: 1) Any services provided; 2) Training established; 3) Discipline imposed; or 4) Other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator."
- 2.) Since our last Board of Education meeting on February 22, 2024, and through March 20, 2024, our school counselors, school based social workers and deputy counsel have completed 65 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 25 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 23 males, 48 females, 63 regular education students and 8 special education students that were the alleged victims. There were 58 males, 44 females, 89 regular education students, 10 special education students, 2 students from another school district and 1 non-student that were the alleged offenders. Of the 25 cases Founded for HIB, 4 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 1 case was Founded based on Religion, 2 cases were Founded based on Sexual Orientation, 3 cases were Founded based on Gender and 24 cases were Founded based on "Other" identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 17 skill development lessons/trainings, 59 counseling sessions, 4 targeted behavioral interventions, 11 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 4 classroom changes, 1 change of school placement, 7 administrative counseling sessions, 19 in school detentions, 42 parent conferences, 8 referrals to outside agencies, 31 out of school suspensions, and 14 cases are continuing to be monitored.
- 3.) The HIB statute further requires that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after board members receive the initial report of HIB investigations, that the Board issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent's decision pertaining to the 40 cases that was reported to you at the last Board meeting on February 22, 2024. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations, which were reported to you at the last board meeting, have been provided for your review prior to voting.

Are there any questions?

As there were no questions regarding the H.I.B. Report, Mrs. Dorgely asked if any Board members had any further questions or comments. Being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera,  
Mrs. Dorgely - 6

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary