

Approved May 9th EBOE Meeting.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 17, 2024
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and read the following statement: “Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a special meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting using an on-line platform was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on April 11, 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, New Jersey.

“There will be an on-line public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must register on-line up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form states the name and email of the person who wants to comment. Members of the public who prefer not to, or do not have the means to, participate using the on-line platform, may continue to participate by emailing statements relative to agenda items and/or educational matters to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org. All statements received will be read into the record during the Meeting’s Public Comment Portion. All emails must be submitted and received by the Secretary of the Board up to the start of the meeting and, as is always the case, must include the public member’s full name for the record. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. Emails received but not read after the 60-minute duration will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.”

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, (arrived at 6:14 p.m.), Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, (arrived 6:18 p.m.), Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely-9
Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., and Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi of Kologi Simitz Law Office, Esq., and members of the community were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Maria Carvalho.

Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy Jr, read the following public participation statement:
Citizens may address the Board.

“At this time, the meeting is open for public comment on-line to those who have registered with the on-line participation form prior to this session. I shall call individuals to participate 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:

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.

As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”
“If the 60 minute public comment period expires before all registered on-line participants have been called, remaining participants can email their statements to the Secretary of the Board at kennedha@epsnj.org and they will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting”

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

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about policies that in her opinion, needed to be updated.

Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely thanked her for her comments.

“At this time the Secretary of the Board will read into the record all emails that have been submitted up to the start of the meeting. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration.”

Mr. Kennedy stated that there were no emails received for this meeting.

Since there were no further public participants signed up to address the Board, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely 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. The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.”

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to go into private session at 6:13 p.m., specifically to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Cheveres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely -7

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Neron to return to public session at 7:13 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely - 9

Negative: none

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Bathelus Dorgely - 9

Negative: none

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