

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

October 12, 2017
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on October 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education School No. 51, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board Vice President Maria Carvalho presented the following statement at 6:50 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on October 6, 2017. 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 and our television viewers to this October 12, 2017 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 public speaking 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: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 5
Absent: Mrs. Amin, Messrs. Perreira, Rodriguez, Neron – 4

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Carvalho called for a moment of silence for all the victims of Las Vegas, Puerto Rico, and California. Mrs. Carvalho stated that Board President Stanley Neron was not in attendance due to a family engagement.

Board Vice President Carvalho presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the first public participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Michelle Santos stated that she this is the second time she is speaking about a transportation problem with her child being on the bus for an extended time and that there is no camera on the bus.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Elizabeth Youri, to address the Board.

Elizabeth Youri spoke about a problem with her child.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested the parent give her information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, thanked the district for implementing SEPAC. Mrs. Moreira stated that there were two bus accidents in one day and the parents don't know how to submit the claims. Mrs. Moreira stated that no one has the answer for the \$250. fee charged for a bus for a field trip.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Kathy Colon, to address the Board.

Kathy Colon stated that her child was sent home from school due to the excessive heat in the classroom at School No. 15 and asked how it affects the attendance policy. Ms. Colon stated that she was told that all fans had to be removed from the classrooms.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the procedures during hot weather and children are brought to cooling areas of the building. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that each school has an attendance committee to review the reasons for absences.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and requested she give her information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes. Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Michelle Vila, to address the Board.

Michelle Vila spoke about the excessive heat at School No. 15 and that the principal requested fans but none were given.

Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment Luis Couto stated that when School No. 15 requested the fans we did not have any to give.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested she give her information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about the empty promises made by Board members and that the Board majority uses special needs only for political gain.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little, student, asked for everyone to have a moment of silence for a student who died on Sunday. Mr. Little spoke about the lack of air conditioning and stated that it is not a safe environment. Mr. Little stated that the Board members should be here to represent us.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments. Mrs. Carvalho stated that there are 12 schools without air conditioning and we are working towards having all schools air conditioned but we need to budget for it. Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next public participant, Priscilla Borges, to address the Board.

Priscilla Borges stated that her child had heat exhaustion at School No. 15 and spoke about the lack of air conditioning and that the cooling center is not the answer. Ms. Borges stated that she was at the school for parents' night and at 6:00 p.m. it was 89 degrees on the second floor of the school.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested the parent give her information to Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Salaam Ismial, to address the Board.

Salaam Ismial, 513 Richmond Street, United Youth Council, stated that another former student was shot dead. Mr. Ismial spoke about gun violence awareness and stated that he submitted proposals and has not seen enthusiasm from this Board on this matter. Mr. Ismial stated that he wanted to have a Youth Fest in October and the month is almost over so it's not going to happen. Mr. Ismial stated that he would like to meet with the committee of the Board or the Superintendent to work out the proposals. Mr. Ismial stated that a lot of black boys have been dying and he has a team of people ready to help.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Mr. Ismial to speak with Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Frank Cuesta.

Mr. Ismial responded that you have all of the information.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Ana Texeira, to address the Board.

Ana Texeira, 575 Second Avenue, stated that this is not the first time speaking about the lack of air conditioning at School No. 15. Ms. Texeira stated that the first time was in 2014 and she was told it was a difficult task. Ms. Texeira stated that the parents were not informed that only the Board could provide fans for the classrooms and asked why the Board did not provide fans. Ms. Texeira stated that she would like to know the protocol so you can purchase fans for the Spring. Ms. Texeira stated that the Board members say that they are here for the children and to help the children and asked how long do we have to wait.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there are 12 schools left without air conditioning. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that each year the Board discusses this and there is a plan for all schools to be air conditioned.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Giovanna LaRosa, to address the Board.

Giovanna LaRosa, 532 Second Avenue, spoke about the lack of air conditioning at School No. 15.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Reina Clavel, to address the Board.

Reina Clavel stated that her son is at School No. 26. Mrs. Clavel spoke about problems with special services and her son was injured at school last week.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested the parent give her information to Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedenio. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the incident will be properly investigated.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Barbara Hernandez, to address the Board.

Barbara Hernandez stated that her daughter is at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy and questioned the teacher to student ratio for high school. Ms. Hernandez stated that there are 31 children in the Algebra class and it is unfair for the teacher and students.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that they will look into the ratio and review with the principal. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the typical ratio is 25 or 26 students in a class.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Carvalho closed this portion of the meeting.

Vice President Maria Carvalho stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we will go tab by tab and each Board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Transportation Michael Rijo, Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Daphne Marchetti, Director of Special Projects Dorothy McMullen, Acting Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino, Acting Director of Bilingual and ESL Education Sandra Nunes, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal, and Purchasing Agent Mario Rodrigues. The Board reviewed the agenda for the October 19, 2017 regular meeting.

Minutes of the Meetings of September 7 and 14, 2017
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of August 2017

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.
Mrs. Carvalho added the Minutes of the Meetings of September 7 and 14, 2017 and the Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of August 2017 to the agenda.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Bathelus requested two names be removed from the report.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it is for an adjustment in the Human Resource system and they were previously transferred two months ago.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if we don't approve it, then do the transfers not happen.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that this is just naming the correct locations.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if the location 5a would not reflect 22a.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if all the schools are labeled on page 47.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that is the after school program.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Personnel Report to the agenda.

Tuition Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the homeless report.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the report.

Ms. Bathelus excused herself from the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Tuition Report to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Considerations to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we have had to cut down on our rentals with the changes in our schools.

Director of Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto stated that we have had to shift some that were using School No. 23 because our programs are at that location now. Mr. Couto stated that it has not really affected the use of facilities overall.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities to the agenda.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities to the agenda.

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we have a protocol and funding for field trips.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that field trips are covered for visits to colleges and universities.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if chaperones are not parent/guardians and if they have to pay.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the chaperones are parent/guardians and sometimes they pay and other times they do a fundraiser.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Field Trips to the agenda.

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

Mrs. Carvalho added the Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results to the agenda.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter into Agreement, etc.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the Authorizations Report.

Mrs. Carvalho asked when the butterfly garden will start.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno stated that the first Groundwork meeting is next week. Mrs. Cedeno stated that it is best to start the butterfly garden in the Spring and for now there are other projects offered.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Authorizations Report to the agenda.

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Supplemental Authorizations Report to the agenda.

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

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the report.

Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the report.

Mrs. Carvalho added Finance and Accounting Reports for Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc. and Transfer of Funds to the agenda.

Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the report.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if it is the same company as last year for sports athletic equipment and supplies and about the inventory of the equipment and supplies.

Acting Director of Athletics Bartolomeo Candelino responded yes and stated that we are hiring an equipment manager to do the inventory.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the contract for snow removal and salting.

Mr. Couto explained that we do our schools and this contract is to supplement.

Mrs. Barbosa asked if this is the first time we are contracting with Progressive Therapy.

Director of Special Projects Dorothy McMullen responded that we have used them in the past.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Award of Contracts Report to the agenda.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Miss Goncalves asked about the change order.

Mr. Couto explained the need for additional work at School No. 20.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Supplemental Award of Contracts to the agenda.

Second Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Nina asked about the contract with Repit, LLC.

Mr. Candelino explained the contract.

Mrs. Carvalho added the Second Supplemental Award of Contracts to the agenda.

Miscellaneous Communication (none)

Claims List

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Carvalho added Miscellaneous Communication and Claims List to the agenda.

Resolution – National Parental Involvement Day

Resolution – Puerto Rican Heritage Month

Resolution – Veteran's Day

Resolution – Assignment of Affirmative Action Officer 2017-2018 School Year

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the Affirmative Action Officer.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is required.

Mrs. Carvalho added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mr. Nina asked if there is a limit to pay out.

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Frank Cuesta responded that there is a limit.

Mr. Kennedy explained the state law for grandfathered days.

Mrs. Carvalho added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Resolution – Approve Participation Attendance at New Jersey School Board’s Annual Workshop and Exhibition

Resolution – Assignment of 504 Officer 2017-2018 School Year

Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the resolutions.

Mrs. Carvalho added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Resolution – Anti-Litter Campaign

Mrs. Carvalho asked if there were any questions on the resolution.

Mrs. Carvalho added the above resolution to the agenda.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt to explain the policy on water for the children.

Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt explained that water is delivered as requested.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the after school fruit program.

Mrs. Leavitt explained the K-8 Fresh Fruit Program.

Mrs. Barbosa asked about the ratio of kitchen help.

Mrs. Leavitt explained that it depends on the school and there is a formula for meals per labor hour.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Director of Security Matthew Glackin how we are doing.

Director of Security Matthew Glackin responded so far so good.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Director of Transportation Michael Rijo how are the field trips going to affect the budget.

Director of Transportation Michael Rijo stated that he is not sure.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it is a separate allocation and does not come out of transportation.

Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra stated that we will pay the cost for the bus driver overtime for trips going from one school to another.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about children out of district who are coming to our schools.

Deputy Counsel Heather Ford stated that there are some issues with coding and some students are flagged but are only missing apartment numbers on their address and they do live here. Mrs. Ford stated that our numbers are lessening and explained the process of investigating.

Mr. Nina asked how many investigators we have.

Mrs. Ford stated that we have one lead investigator, one residency investigator, and two other investigators.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the winter athletics contract.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there is a resolution approving the form of the contract.

Mr. Kennedy stated that we need to add to the agenda the First Readings of new and revised policies and exhibits.

Mrs. Carvalho added the First Readings of new and revised policies and exhibits to the agenda.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Promise Goals have been added to the Data Dashboard Policy.

The Vice President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, supplemental personnel report, salary revisions, and appointments; legal, settlement agreement S.F., D.L., C.W., W.P., and K.M.; and workers' compensation claims, specifically, G.M., S.W., and S.M. The Board will reconvene in public to add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Nina, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to go into private session at 8:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 4

Negative: None

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Nina, to reconvene in public session at 9:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 4

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – S.F.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – W.P.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – D.L.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – C.W.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – Special Education N.M. and K.B. o/b/o K.M.

Resolution – Correction of Salary – Samuel Etienne

Resolution – Correction of Salary – Bartolomeo Candelino

Resolution – Change in Date of Transfer – Joia Hill

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – N.G.

Resolution – Termination – J.S.

Supplemental Personnel Report

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 4

Negative: None

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