

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

February 24, 2022  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on February 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center, 151 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The meeting will be open to the public in person. In-person attendees will 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 Rosa Moreno-Ortega welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 6:50 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education. Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on February 17, 2022. 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 February 24, 2022 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 must personally sign-in prior to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

Present: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Charlene B. Dorgely, Jerry Jacobs, Stanley Neron, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Rosa Moreno-Ortega – 9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta (via online platform), Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP (via online platform), and members of the community were present.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for a moment of silence for the passing of former security guard Donald Johnson.

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 Rakeem Boykins, senior at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.

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

The African American National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by James Weldon Johnson was performed by Kerry Stubbs, music teacher at George Washington School No. 1.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Dashawn Porter, senior at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that in honor of Black History Month, we have a very special group of performances that were put together by the Elizabeth Public Schools Black History Month Committee as a celebration of African American culture. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega introduced Ameerah Boone, teacher tutor interventionist at Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, to introduce the wonderful students who are performing tonight.

Mrs. Ameerah Boone stated that the first school to perform is Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23.

Mrs. Erna LeTemps, fifth grade teacher, introduced students from Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 who performed to music beginning with the 1960's including The Temptations and The Supremes and to *Something Inside So Strong* by Labi Siffre.

Mrs. Boone introduced students from Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy who performed to *Freedom: From Bondage to Liberation*.

Mrs. Boone introduced students from Winfield Scott School No. 2 who performed to *A Legacy of Strength, A Blueprint of Hope*.

Mrs. Boone introduced students from George Washington School No. 1 who performed a dance routine to *Divine Nine*, a medley of selected songs.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked the students from George Washington School No. 1, Winfield Scott School No. 2, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy for bringing African American culture to life through their excellent performances.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste and Councilman Carlos Torres who were in attendance.

Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste welcomed everyone and asked for another round of applause for the students who performed tonight, music teachers and the teachers who took the time to teach the children about African American history month. Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste stated that African American history is American history. Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste stated that when Africans came to America enslaved we basically built the country and then once we became unenslaved the first thing we built was colleges and educational institutions so that we could continue to learn and teach ourselves. Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste stated that education is key and miseducation does not help us as a community. Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste stated that she is hoping that the Elizabeth Board of Education will continue to teach the truth and not leave out important history because at the end of the day we all need each other to survive. Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste thanked Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Vice President Iliana Chevres, Board members, and Superintendent Hugelmeyer. Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste stated that African American history is American history and should be taught year round.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that the Board recognizes the many hours of work and preparation that have gone into creating this program of performances. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized the Elizabeth Public Schools Black History Month Committee for their instrumental role in organizing and promoting Black History through classroom lessons and performances. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized the members of the Black History Month Committee including Kerry Stubbs, Story Thompson, Ameerah Boone, Ana Cobas, Alfred Aguilar, Maryse Baird, Edyta Drobniewska, Erna Letemps, Samaiyah Simpson, Diana Fonseca, Hazel Outley, Marlene Noyan, Tamika Riddick, Sherly Adisa, Krzysztof Kowalewski, Rita Romero, Susan Hernandez, Taliah Sessions, and Ana Pena. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for a short recess at 8:09 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 8:14 p.m.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega introduced Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt and Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood of DLH Enterprises to present how the Elizabeth Public Schools continues to infuse African American history into lessons throughout the social studies curriculum in accordance with the goals of the Amistad Commission.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt presented PowerPoint slides and stated that the Amistad Collaboration was established in December 2019 and the work has continued to the present day. Mr. Goldblatt stated that members of the Amistad Collaborative include Mt. Teman AME Church under the leadership of Rev. George Britt, the Elizabeth Branch of the NAACP, the NJ Association of Black Educators, the United Youth of NJ, and the Elizabeth

Public Schools. Mr. Goldblatt stated that the purpose of the collaborative is to ensure that the Elizabeth Public Schools achieves the learning goals in the Amistad bill. Mr. Goldblatt stated that the Board hired Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood to review our compliance to the mandate. Mr. Goldblatt stated that in May of 2020, Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood submitted to the Board her extensive report which highlights that our district has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring students know African Americans have a foundational role in the establishment, growth, and expansion of America. Mr. Goldblatt stated that Dr. Lindsay-Harewood cited numerous examples of the Elizabeth Public Schools' fidelity in making available an inclusive curriculum for our students. Mr. Goldblatt stated that since that time, Dr. Lindsay-Harewood's work has continued in earnest with our teachers and administrators. Mr. Goldblatt stated that over sixty lessons have been added in grades K-12 along with professional development and community collaboration. Mr. Goldblatt stated that Kenneth and Charlotte Brown of the United Youth of New Jersey have dedicated their effort in bringing to light historical events which capture the African American experience. Mr. Goldblatt acknowledged the full support and leadership from Superintendent Hugelmeyer and the members of the Elizabeth Board of Education given to the collaborative. Mr. Goldblatt stated that as a result of this our district has invested resources to meet the requirements of the New Jersey Amistad Legislative Mandate.

Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood presented PowerPoint slides and stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools has a story to tell. Dr. Lindsay-Harewood stated that community and school partnerships are moving the district from compliance with the Amistad law toward excellence. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that under the leadership of Superintendent Hugelmeyer, she was asked to evaluate and provide support related to the implementation of the Amistad law. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that the evaluations have risks and sometimes uncover a need of improvement. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that tonight we can celebrate the commitment of the Elizabeth Public Schools, the administration, educators, and community collaboration. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that working together students in Elizabeth are more knowledgeable about the sacrifices and contributions of African Americans in the building and growth of our nation. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that students in Elizabeth will learn about African Americans in all periods of American history including colonization, revolution, reforms, conflicts, and growth such as STEM and finances. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that African American history is American history. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that in the Elizabeth Public Schools, students will come to know the significant roles African Americans have and continue to have in the development and growth of our nation. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is moving from compliance to excellence. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that New Jersey's Amistad Mandate is about inclusion. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that in February we pause and spotlight African Americans in America. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that since 1976 every U.S. President has selected a theme for Black History Month and this year's theme is Black Health and Wellness. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that we recognize the work of African Americans in the many health and wellness roles. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that African American history is American history. Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood stated that we should celebrate the commitment of the Elizabeth Public Schools to teaching an inclusive American story.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Mr. Goldblatt and Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood for the presentations.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega recognized Councilman William Gallman who was in attendance.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega introduced Reverend Dr. Wanda M Lundy from Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church.

Reverend Dr. Wanda M. Lundy from Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church stated that the Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church was established in 1619 and is the oldest church in New Jersey. Rev. Lundy invited everyone to visit the church.

Rev. Lundy spoke about the unmarked graves of enslaved and free African ancestors buried on the grounds of Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth. Rev. Lundy stated that The Ancestors Speak project is designed to give voice to the lives of 313 enslaved and free African ancestors and by telling their stories it is our intention to bring them out of the shadows and into the forefront. Rev. Lundy stated that their graves are currently unmarked and deserve remembrance and it would be a good research project for the students in the Elizabeth Public Schools who are interested in giving voice to The Ancestors Speak project.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Rev. Lundy for the presentation.

Mr. Neron welcomed everyone and said Hotep which is come and go in peace in the ancient African language. Mr. Neron recognized The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee for promoting Black History through preserving the legacy of one of the world's great civil rights leaders. Mr. Neron recognized the great work of the members of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee of Elizabeth including Chairman Rev. George Britt, William Gallman, Donna Lowe Alexander, Joyce Paschell, Patricia Perkins-Auguste, Yolanda Eady Perkins, Darryl Robinson, and himself. Mr. Neron stated that some members were not able to attend tonight including Honorary Member Chessie Dentley Roberts, Rev. William Ingram, Rev. Leonard Grayson, Rev. Steffie Bartley, Rev. Joseph Adair, Feret Fenelus, Denise Lowe, Alonzo Jones, Crystal Orr, and Rod Spearman. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron read the following resolution:

“Whereas, for the nearly 13 years that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was leading the modern American Civil Rights Movement, African Americans achieved unprecedented advancements in equality, and

Whereas, during this life changing movement, Dr. King set the tone for combatting inequality and injustice through advocating for nonviolent protest, and

Whereas, in the face of brutal and heinous treatment of African Americans, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his followers remained faithful to their principles of nonviolence, love, and kindness, and

Whereas, their tremendous display of courage in upholding these principles led to groundbreaking legislation including the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and

Whereas, though the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ended the life of one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history, his work and principles still live through the many community activists and organizations throughout our nation that carry his message of nonviolence, love, and kindness, and

Whereas, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee of Elizabeth, through their service and mission, continue the life's work of the late Dr. King of promoting love and kindness and shining the light on injustice and inequality.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Elizabeth Board of Education hereby recognize The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee of Elizabeth for their efforts to continue spreading Dr. King's message to help bring peace, justice, and equality to all.

Be it further resolved that the resolution be spread on the official minutes of the Elizabeth Board of Education meeting and that a copy of this resolution be presented to The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee of Elizabeth."

Mr. Neron thanked them for all their great work. Mr. Neron stated that they have done work throughout our community, continuously inspiring our community and our children and making sure our legacy lives on. Mr. Neron introduced Chairman Rev. George Britt.

Chairman Rev. George Britt thanked the Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education for acknowledging their work. Rev. Britt stated that they are working together to build the beloved community, a place where injustice ceases and love prevails. Rev. Britt thanked everyone and said God Bless.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for Mr. Kennedy to read 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. Kennedy called upon the first public participant, Nick Nicoletta, to address the Board.

Nick Nicoletta, EEA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, requested the agreed upon town hall meeting be held to hear concerns.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Anne Eiring, to address the Board.

Anne Eiring, EEA, spoke on behalf of district employees and asked for the town hall meeting to be held.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Marie Tichenor, to address the Board.

Marie Tichenor asked for the town hall meeting to be held.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, John Griffin, to address the Board.

John Griffin, EEA President, requested the agreed upon town hall meeting be held.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Leonardo Caramazana, to address the Board.

Leonardo Caramazana, EEA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, stated that this is his third time speaking about the contract not being completed for employees.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the next public participant, Diana Tabor, to address the Board. Diana Tabor did not respond.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that there were audio problems when Nick Nicoletta was speaking earlier and asked him to repeat his statement.

Nick Nicoletta, EEA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, requested the agreed upon town hall meeting be held to hear concerns.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega closed this portion of the meeting.

Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer presented the announcements for the month of February. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Fulbright Award to Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega received the Fulbright U.S. Distinguished Teaching Award to Colombia to assist Colombian schools in transitioning to a Spanish-English Bilingual Model. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board are pleased to announce that Rosa Moreno-Ortega of New Jersey has been selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term Program (Fulbright DAST). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Mrs. Moreno-Ortega is one of fourteen U.S. citizens who will travel to six countries around the world in 2022 on the Fulbright DAST Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term Program sends expert U.S. K-12 educators to participating countries to support projects in schools, teacher training colleges, government ministries, or educational

nongovernmental organizations, as identified by U.S. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as a Fulbrighter, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega will share knowledge and foster meaningful connections across communities in the United States and Colombia. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Fulbrighters expand their professional networks, often continuing collaborations started abroad and laying the groundwork for forging future partnerships between schools and institutions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that upon returning to their classrooms and schools in the United States, they share their stories and often become active supporters of international exchange, encouraging colleagues and students to go abroad. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as Fulbright alumni, their careers are enriched by joining a network of thousands of esteemed professionals, many of whom are leaders in their fields. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Fulbright alumni include 61 Nobel Prize laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 40 who have served as a head of state or government. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program and is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 400,000 participants from over 160 countries the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Strategic Plan Development. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is working with FourPoint Education Partners and The Valbrun Consulting Group (TVCG) to develop a five-year strategic plan for the district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a webpage has been created specifically for this initiative and it can be accessed using three different methods including the web browser address [www.epsnj.org/StrategicPlan2022](http://www.epsnj.org/StrategicPlan2022); the Strategic Plan icon at the top of the district home page ([www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)) or under the multimedia gallery; or click on "More Info" on the Strategic Plan banner in the district homepage ([www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)) multimedia gallery. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in the first phase of our strategic plan development, data will be collected and analyzed, allowing FourPoint Education Partners to produce a report that summarizes EPS' strengths and challenges and makes recommendations in five domain areas: teaching and learning, school improvement, special populations, family and community engagement, and system alignment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that FourPoint Education Partners held 71 interview/focus group sessions the week of February 7th, which included community leaders, parents, teachers, high school students, principals, vice principals, and central office personnel. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that another important aspect of data collection is parent online surveys. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Board of Education invites all Elizabeth Public Schools parents and guardians to serve an active role in helping shape the direction of our schools for the years ahead by providing valuable feedback about school and district practices. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that information about these surveys have been sent to families via email, text message, and automated phone message. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have made the parent surveys available on the district's strategic plan webpage in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Arabic. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and your input is vital and we look forward to working with you to ensure the future success of our schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents/guardians may access the surveys by going to the strategic plan webpage ([www.epsnj.org/strategicplan2022](http://www.epsnj.org/strategicplan2022)) and click on the "Strategic Plan Parent Online Surveys" button, then select your language at the bottom of the page and click the "Take Survey" button. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the surveys must be completed by Monday, February 28,



2022. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a video was made with an announcement by our Board members in all of our languages.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a SEPAC virtual presentation about parental rights in special education will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that to join the SEPAC virtual meeting, visit the district homepage ([www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)), click on “Calendar”, and click on the Elizabeth SEPAC flyer for the March 1<sup>st</sup> event.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Early Childhood Lottery Registration process. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Early Childhood Lottery Registration is open from February 24, 2022 through March 25, 2022. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for more information about the Early Childhood Lottery Registration, including to make an appointment to register, click on “More Info” on the Early Childhood banner in the district homepage ([www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)) multimedia gallery.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Gifted and Talented Program Application and stated that the application process is open from February 23, 2022 through April 1, 2022. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we were excited to see over 250 parents participate in last night’s Gifted and Talented program information session. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for more information about the Gifted and Talented Program, including how to obtain an application, click on “More Info” on the Gifted and Talented banner in the district homepage ([www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org)) multimedia gallery.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Coat Drive. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the New Jersey State Police and Troopers United Foundation Inc., in collaboration with Elizabeth Public Schools, donated 203 coats to students among our district schools.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the Covid Guidance Information. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as of February 5, 2022, all 21 counties in the State of New Jersey have been given the yellow designation on the state’s Covid-19 transmission level map, which indicates there is a moderate risk of Covid transmission. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on Feb 7, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy announced that Executive Order 251, the mask mandate for all New Jersey schools, will expire on March 7, 2022. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools continues to monitor Covid cases both in the learning community and greater community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Mayor Bollwage reported yesterday that 89 cases remain open, 70 new cases overnight, and 5 deaths. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there has been a continued decrease in cases and the Mayor believes the reported data related to deaths is the state catching up for the past 6 weeks. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools will be issuing a communication related to the mask mandate on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide on the Department of Health Guidance and stated that despite the expiration of Executive Order 251 on March 7, 2022, masks must continue to be worn by all passengers on buses, including school buses, regardless of vaccination status per the CDC’s Federal Order. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that until lifted, the only exception is for children under the age of two, and those who cannot safely wear a mask. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that when the Covid-19 risk level of community transmission is moderate (yellow) schools may consider implementing masking policies for activities or settings where there is increased risk of transmission such as activities in which increased exhalation occurs including auditorium, athletic activities, and others. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides on guidance for staying home

when sick/exposed to Covid; exclusions criteria for persons with Covid-19, Covid-19 compatible symptoms and close contacts; exclusions from school; tips for symptom checking; and information about close contacts.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the City of Elizabeth Testing and Vaccination Information. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented information about Covid-19 testing at the Stephen Sampson Center and Covid-19 vaccinations at the Peterstown Community Center.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the County of Union Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics at the Warinanco Ice Skating Center, Kean University Downs Hall, and Plainfield High School. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide with information for Covid-19 vaccines for homebound residents of Union County. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the County of Union free Covid-19 tests at Kean University, Gerald B. Green Building in Plainfield, and the Plainfield Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the State of Emergency that may be declared by Governor Phil Murphy for tomorrow, Friday, February 25, 2022 due to the impending storm. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there will be a delayed opening for the Elizabeth Public Schools and explained the times of arrival for students, teachers, staff members, food service workers, transportation workers, custodial staff and inclement weather crews, and central office staff. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a delayed opening announcement can be heard at [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org), [www.weatherclosing.com](http://www.weatherclosing.com), and [www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com); on radio stations WCBS-AM, WNBC-AM, WOR-710 AM, NJ 101.5 FM, WCTC-1450 AM, and WMGQ-MAGIC 98.3 FM; and on television stations News-12 New Jersey, Verizon Fios1, WCBS-TV, WABC-TV and FOX 5-WNYW. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that concluded her announcements.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for the presentation. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if the Board members had any questions or comments.

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, interview, administrative leave Y.M.; legal matters, specifically, residency investigative results; and workers' compensation matters, specifically, M.A., O.L., R.D., and F.T. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chevres, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 9:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Goncalves Pestana, Moreno-Ortega – 9

Negative: None

Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez excused herself from the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana returned to the meeting (via online platform) at 10:45 p.m.

Mr. Jacobs excused himself from the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to reconvene in public session at 12:01 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Mr. Neron, Mmes. Goncalves Pestana (via online platform), Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that we will go tab by tab to review the agenda and each board member may ask questions.

Mr. Jacobs returned to the meeting at 12:03 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 2022

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

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

Tuition Report

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

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.

Authorization Report

Supplemental Authorization Report

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

#### Award of Contracts Report

##### Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

#### Miscellaneous Communication

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for the committee reports from each chairperson.

#### Finance Committee – Chairperson Jerry Jacobs

Mr. Jacobs stated that the Finance Committee met on February 15, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mr. Jacobs stated that the attendees for the 12:30 p.m. meeting included John Swisher of Suplee Clooney, Judge Malone, Jonathan Williams, Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Members Maria Carvalho and Stan Neron, Harold Kennedy, and Rajeev Malhotra. Mr. Jacobs stated that Mrs. Hugelmeyer was unable to attend due to a meeting with the County Superintendent.

Mr. Jacobs stated that Mr. Swisher presented the results of the 2020-2021 Financial Audit which included unmodified opinions on the financial statements, internal controls, and federal and state programs. Mr. Jacobs stated that Mr. Swisher also presented the committee with a summary of financial reserves available at the end of June 30, 2021 and the financial position of the Enterprise Fund (Food Services). Mr. Jacobs stated that Mr. Swisher also presented that there were no findings and recommendations as a result of the audit.

Mr. Jacobs stated that the attendees for the 5:00 p.m. meeting included Judge Malone, Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Members Maria Carvalho and Stan Neron, Harold Kennedy, Rajeev Malhotra, Tracy Crosby, Olga Hugelmeyer, and himself.

Mr. Jacobs stated that the Early Childhood Program Aide Budget for 2022-2023 was presented to the committee by Tracy Crosby, Director of Early Childhood. Mr. Jacobs stated that the first report included the budgeted revenues and appropriation categories totaling \$49,926,269. Mr. Jacobs stated that the second report included a comparative analysis for the Early Childhood Providers and Head Start totaling \$10,569,971. Mr. Jacobs stated that the third report was the analysis of the unfunded district expenses that will be included as part of the district's budget totaling \$9,171,171. Mr. Jacobs stated that Governor Murphy moved his budget address from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup> and our state aide notices for Preschool and K-12 are anticipated on March 11<sup>th</sup> or March 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jacobs stated that the budget presented this evening was a projection.

Mr. Jacobs stated that a summary status report of Covid relief grants (Federal CARES, ESSER II, ARP, Corona Virus Relief, Union County Covid, Digital Divide) totaling \$109,675,035. was presented and discussed. Mr. Jacobs stated that the committee requested a further breakdown of the totals by year and priority area be presented at the March Board of Education meeting. Mr. Jacobs stated that the ESIP/Federally funded Capital Project Summary Tracker totaling \$75,015,212. was presented and discussed.

#### School Properties Committee – Chairperson Maria Carvalho

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the School Properties Committee submitted a list of requests on February 12<sup>th</sup> which included the following:

Chain of command for the Division of Plant, Property and Equipment

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the chain of command for the Division of Plant, Property and Equipment begins with the Director who oversees three Coordinators including Coordinator of Mechanics, Coordinator of Buildings and Properties, and Coordinator of Warehouse. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the Coordinator of Mechanics oversees projects and custodians, the Coordinator of Buildings and Properties oversees the trades people and general repair, and the Coordinator of Warehouse oversees the two warehouses and their staff.

#### Air Purifiers

Mrs. Carvalho stated that the number of air purifiers in a classroom is determined by the square footage. Mrs. Carvalho stated that approximately 3,200 air purifiers were deployed to our schools and central offices. Mrs. Carvalho stated that currently, we have 800 in stock at the warehouse for replacement if needed. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the custodian is responsible for replacing the filters and the unit has a light that indicates when to change the filter.

#### Breakdown of PPE supplies

Mrs. Carvalho stated that as a result of the federal CARES Act, a sufficient quantity is currently in stock at the warehouse of all PPE. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we recently went out for bid to replenish the sanitizing wipes and this item is included on tonight's agenda.

#### Update on schools impacted by Hurricane Ida

Mrs. Carvalho stated that School No 26 currently has a gym floor, an elevator and water heaters that are pending. Mrs. Carvalho stated that School No. 27 currently has a rental generator, the sprinkler pump is pending, and the elevator is also pending. Mrs. Carvalho stated that in addition, School 12 has rental boiler, and the replacement boiler is expected to be completed by April.

#### Update on future redistricting

Mrs. Carvalho stated that we are examining a parochial school as an option to addressing the overcrowding at School Nos. 15, 25, and 28. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the Director of Plant and Property has obtained the floor plans from the Archdiocese in order to explore a redistricting.

#### Dates for renewal of leases - Schools and Warehouses

Mrs. Carvalho stated that currently the five schools that are leased are through June 2025. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the leases for the warehouse are due to expire this school year with an option to renew for two 5-year periods. Mrs. Carvalho stated that the leases for St. Mary's and St. Genevieve's were recently signed.

#### Temporary Classroom Units (TCU) maintenance at schools

Mrs. Carvalho stated that flooring is being replaced at this time at School No. 16. Mrs. Carvalho stated that work on the roofing and gutters was completed and investigating the replacement of the HVAC units for all TCUs.

#### Clinical Committee – Chairperson Diane Barbosa

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the Clinical Committee met on February 17, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the attendees included Judge Malone, Jonathan Williams, Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Members Maria Carvalho and Charlene Dorgely, Harold Kennedy, Olga Hugelmeyer, and herself.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee discussed Governor Murphy's announcement regarding the mask wearing. Mrs. Barbosa stated that current Covid cases in Elizabeth total 89 new cases and 3 deaths. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the district is currently averaging 6 to 7 cases daily since February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Barbosa stated that the New Jersey Department of Health has announced that the entire state of New Jersey is moderate (yellow). Mrs. Barbosa stated that all

students that are transported by bus are required to continue wearing their masks since the federal guidance has not been updated.

Mrs. Barbosa stated that the committee agreed that continuous monitoring is required and that the community would be advised by March 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Barbosa stated that this information would also be included in the February community updates.

#### Education Management Committee – Chairperson Charlene B. Dorgely

Mrs. Dorgely stated that the Education Management Committee met on February 22, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Dorgely stated that the attendees included Judge Malone, Jonathan Williams, Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board member Maria Carvalho, Harold Kennedy and Olga Hugelmeyer, and herself. Mrs. Dorgely stated that Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez was unable to attend.

Mrs. Dorgely stated that the committee's agenda included the review of Board Goal No. 2 which is to continue monitoring the Data Dashboard and Equity policies and procedures to determine if revision is needed based on the following priority areas:

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Chronic Absenteeism
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade retention with particular attention to Black and Hispanic males and females at 4 high schools
- Learning loss/acceleration performance on Start Strong Grades 4-10, NJSLA, ECE/ELS, ACCESS, and Benchmark Assessments

Mrs. Dorgely stated that the status of chronic absenteeism was reviewed for all schools. Mrs. Dorgely stated that a student is considered chronically absent if he or she misses 10 percent or more of the school days in session for which he or she was enrolled. Mrs. Dorgely stated that a school's chronic absenteeism rate, as defined in New Jersey's ESSA State Plan, is the proportion of a school's students that were chronically absent. Mrs. Dorgely stated that the school-level chronic absenteeism rate is calculated by dividing the total number of chronically absent students during the school year by the total number of students enrolled in the school during the school year. Mrs. Dorgely stated that the committee requested the strategies being implemented in the schools and the feedback from the administrators. Mrs. Dorgely stated that lastly, the committee reviewed the status of social emotional learning and the monitoring of ESSER II and American Rescue Plan funded programs that address student growth mindset and mental health.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked them for the committee reports. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that on our website you can identify the chairperson of each committee and if you have any questions or concerns you can email them.

#### Claims List

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions.

Resolution – National Nutrition Month

Resolution – National School Breakfast week

Resolution – National School Social Workers Week

Resolution – Read Across America

Resolution – St. Joseph's Day

Resolution – St. Patrick’s Day  
Resolution – Women’s History Month  
Resolution – Youth Art Month  
Resolution – Approving Renewal of Spruce Industries for PPE  
Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days  
Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days  
Resolution – Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee of Elizabeth  
Resolution – Gifted and Talented Student Month  
Resolution – Appointing American Wear Inc. for Food Service Uniforms

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any questions on the above resolutions.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega added the above to the agenda.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that this month is National Nutrition Month which is important and this week she was with kindergarten children who were learning about good health and nutrition. Mrs. Moreno stated that the next resolution is for National School Breakfast Week and the Elizabeth Public Schools provides free breakfast every day to our children. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that the next resolution is for National School Social Workers Week and thanked the social workers for their hard work and dedication during this past year. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that it is important as a Board to recognize them. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is excited to announce that Read Across America is starting and you will see different kinds of activities around the school district. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she is happy that some of us will be visiting different schools to read. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that the next resolutions are St. Joseph’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and Women’s History Month. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that we recognize every woman who makes an impact and contribution, not only in our City and State but also in our nation. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that another resolution is Youth Art Month and art teachers use their lessons to support these resolutions.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 12:33 a.m.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked Mr. Kennedy if there were additional items to add to the agenda.

Mr. Kennedy read the following additions to the agenda:

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report  
Resolution – Administrative Leave with pay – Y.M.  
Resolution – Residency Investigative Results and Actions

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda:

Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 2022  
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for the Month of December 2021  
Personnel Report  
Supplemental Personnel Report  
2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Personnel Report  
Tuition Report  
Superintendent’s Report – Considerations

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities  
 Superintendent's Report – Field Trips  
 Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigative Report  
 Authorization Report  
 Supplemental Authorization Report  
 Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers  
 Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds  
 Award of Contracts Report  
 Supplemental Award of Contracts Report  
 Claims List  
 Resolution – National Nutrition Month  
 Resolution – National School Breakfast week  
 Resolution – National School Social Workers Week  
 Resolution – Read Across America  
 Resolution – St. Joseph's Day  
 Resolution – St. Patrick's Day  
 Resolution – Women's History Month  
 Resolution – Youth Art Month  
 Resolution – Approving Renewal of Spruce Industries for PPE  
 Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days  
 Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days  
 Resolution – Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee of Elizabeth  
 Resolution – Gifted and Talented Student Month  
 Resolution – Appointing American Wear Inc. for Food Service Uniforms  
 Resolution – Administrative Leave with pay – Y.M.  
 Resolution – Residency Investigative Results and Actions

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho (abstain- Resolution– Payment for Unused Vacation Days), Chevres (abstain- Personnel Report- M.C., J.S.), Dorgely (abstain – Supplemental Authorization Report – County of Union), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Jacobs acknowledged the great show that was put on tonight by our students. Mr. Jacobs thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer and her staff for making sure our students, teachers, and staff had the necessary materials, transportation, and the time and effort that was put into the show on short notice. Mr. Jacobs stated that the students did an amazing job and they always put on the best performances for Black History Month. Mr. Jacobs stated that February is his favorite month and African American history is American history. Mr. Jacobs commended Dr. Davida Lindsay-Harewood and the great work she has done on the Board's behalf ensuring that Amistad has been infused in our district through our curriculum. Mr. Jacobs stated that the workshops she has had with the administrators and teachers and the work that she has done with Mr. Goldblatt, Mr. Elflein, and Assistant Superintendents Jennifer Cedeno, Rafael Cortes, and Judy Finch Johnson has really embraced the Amistad initiative. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is so fitting in this



month we were able to display that. Mr. Jacobs thanked Rev. Wanda Lundy and Board member Stan Neron along with The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Committee. Mr. Jacobs stated that we didn't get a chance to recognize our Black administrators, principals, and vice principals because they had to accompany the students back to the schools. Mr. Jacobs stated that we appreciate all of our principals, vice principals, teachers, and staff in the district.

Mr. Neron echoed Mr. Jacob's comments on the celebration as we recognize Black History Month. Mr. Neron stated that our students did a phenomenal job along with staff and the entire administration. Mr. Neron thanked everyone for their support here tonight especially the support staff that stays really late as we make some important decisions. Mr. Neron commended our athletic department for vetting and going through an arduous selection process to get one of the finest coaches in the State of New Jersey and bringing him on Board to become a Minuteman. Mr. Neron stated that he is already wearing the "E" and is ready to go and the media is already excited about him. Mr. Neron commended our outgoing Coach Jamil Jackson for all the work that he did and for passing along the baton. Mr. Neron stated that we are excited about our new coach and this Board is ready for great things to happen. Mr. Neron congratulated the new coach and thanked the Superintendent for guiding this whole process and making it a success. Mr. Neron thanked the administration for all of their great work.

Mr. Jacobs thanked the African American Black History Month Show coordinators Ameerah Boone and Marlone Noyan for the awesome job in presenting another great show.

Mrs. Carvalho congratulated our new football coach and stated that we are very excited. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we are coming up on a new season and our athletic department is doing an amazing job. Mrs. Carvalho stated that tonight there are reappointments of our coaches for baseball, softball, boys track and field, girls track and field, boys volleyball, and tennis. Mrs. Carvalho congratulated Mr. Markowitz as our new head varsity coach for golf. Mrs. Carvalho stated that in celebrating women's history month please look through our website. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we will have a lot of exciting things to celebrate with all of the amazing women who work in our district and who live here in Elizabeth. Mrs. Carvalho stated that we have a lot of things coming up and she is looking forward to next month's meeting.

Mr. Kennedy stated that our Elizabeth High School Basketball Team is playing against Roselle Catholic for the Union County Championship on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at Kean University.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that it was a special night for her as it is Black History Month. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that her great grandfather was black and tonight was very special. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that we cannot forget the global situation and we pray for the war.

On a motion made by Mrs. Dorgely, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

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