

Pending Board Approval

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

May 31, 2023,
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Iliana Chevres welcomed everyone to the May 31, special meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Chevres called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Kennedy to read the following statement at 6:02 p.m.

“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 was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on May 25, 2023. 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.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present at this May 31, 2023, 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. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate speaking when talking becomes personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

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: Mmes. Barbosa, (arrived at 6:58 p.m.) Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega. Messrs. Neron, Rivera, Mrs. Chevres – 8
Absent Mrs. Goncalves Pestana

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi, Esq. of Kologi Simitz Law Offices, LLP, were present.

Mrs. Chevres asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and Star-Spangled Banner.

Board Member Stanley Neron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Star-Spangled Banner was played.

Board President Iliana Chevres called on School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. 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 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;
3. No vulgar or indecent language;
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting;
5. Speakers should refrain from naming individuals;
6. 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. Chevres stated that she will call upon the participants in the order in which they registered online to speak.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the first public participant, Josiah Issa, to address the Board.

Mr. Issa spoke about the student dress code.

Mrs. Chevres thanked Mr. Issa for his comments.

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

Board President Iliana Chevres requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of the following matters: Superintendents Evaluation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dorgely and seconded by Mr. Neron to go into private session at 6:11 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Dorgely, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno Ortega, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: None

Mr. Neron left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Mrs. Carvalho left the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Mrs. Chevres left the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Board Vice President Mrs. Dorgely asked for a motion to reconvene in Public session at 10:03 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Moreno Ortega, to reconvene in public session.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -5

Negative: None

Board Vice President Mrs. Dorgely asked if any Board members had comments or questions. Hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Moreno Ortega, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega. Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely-5

Negative: None

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