

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Official Minutes

July 18, 2024
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Charlene Bathelus welcomed everyone to the July 18, 2024, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Ms. Bathelus called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 6:43 p.m. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, 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 July 11, 2024. In addition, this notice is posted in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street and has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth.

“We want to welcome everyone present here at School No. 51, and to our television viewers to this July 18, 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 for the recording to adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking.

We 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 public comment portion 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 for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, (joined the meeting at 7:42 p.m.) Carvalho, Chevres, (joined the meeting at 6:56 p.m.), Messrs. Jacobs (joined the meeting at 8:08 p.m., Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Bathelus-8

Absent: Mrs. Moreno Ortega

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jenifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, and Co-General Counsel, Edward Kologi of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

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

Elaine C. Mills, Retired Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable, Mitchell Building

Phillip Orsini, Fifth Grade Mathematics Teacher, William F. Halloran, School No. 22

Christina H. McAllister, Retired Teacher, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14

Barbara A. Durham Evangelist, Retired Teacher Winfield Scott School No. 2

Marilyn Byrne, Mother of John J. Byrne, Principal J. Christian Bollwage Academy Finance Academy

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Isaias Rivera.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member Stephanie Goncalves Pestana

Ms. Bathelus 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 comments 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.”

Ms. Bathelus called upon the first public participant, Michelle Santos, to address the Board.

Ms. Santos did respond.

Ms. Bathelus called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about Board compliance with State Policy.

Ms. Bathelus thanked her for her comments.

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

Board President Charlene Bathelus commenced a review of the evening's agenda.

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (June 27, 2024) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (April 30, 2024) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 4) Superintendent's Reports

Tab 4a Considerations was added to the Agenda

Tab 4b Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda

Tab 4bb Use of Facilities – Considerations was added to the Agenda

Tab 4c – Field trip Considerations was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4d – HIB Presentation for the July Board of Education Meeting

7/18/24

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 June 27, 2024, and through the last day of school on June 24, 2024, our school counselors, school based social workers, Supervisor of Anti-Bullying and Deputy Counsel have completed 15 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 7 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 9 males, 9 females, 17 regular education students and 1 special education student that were the alleged victims. There were 17 males, 12 females, 26 regular education students, and 3 non-students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 7 cases Founded for HIB, 2 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 2 cases were Founded based on Color, 1 case was Founded based on Ancestry, 1 case was Founded based on Sexual Orientation, 1 case was Founded based on Gender, and 7 cases were Founded based on "Other" identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 5 skill development lessons/trainings, 9 counseling sessions, 4 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 2

administrative counseling sessions, 3 in school detentions, 9 parent conferences, 1 referral to an outside agency, 1 professional development training, 7 out of school suspensions, and 5 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 76 cases that was reported to you at the last Board meeting on June 27, 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.

Tab 4d) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 5) Authorizations Report was added to the Agenda.

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

Tab 6a) Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds was added to the Agenda.

Tab 7) Award of Contracts Report. – Mrs. Goncalves Pestana complimented Director Glackin on the training(s) being scheduled for Security Personnel. Board Member Carvalho was pleased that progress was being made on the addition to the Field House at Williams Field. Board President Bathelus inquired about the contract with Dr. Davida Linsay-Harewood. Dr. Hugelmeyer explained that Dr. Harewood had completed a comprehensive review of the Arts curriculum to infuse equity throughout. A report will be made available with Dr. Harewood's findings and conclusions. Ms. Bathelus and Dr. Hugelmeyer will discuss setting up a meeting to review the report. Mrs. Carvalho asked for clarification concerning the contract with Helene, MD Family Psychiatry & Therapy. Dr Ojeda explained that Child Study teams will sometimes recommend that in addition to the work they do, that a Psychiatric evaluation be done especially if medications may be needed.

Tab 7) Award of Contracts was added to the Agenda.

Tab 8) Committee meeting Reports – There were no committee reports for this meeting.

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Resolutions 10 to 10t were added to the Agenda.

Board President Charlene Bathelus announced that she was appointing a Negotiations Committee for the upcoming contractual talks. Board Member Jerry Jacobs will serve as chairperson and will be joined by Board Members, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana and Isaias Rivera on this committee. Ms. Bathelus asked that they hold their first meeting during August so that they can be ready and well versed for the start of negotiations in November.

Ms. Bathelus apologized to the Directors and community members for the late start to the meeting this evening. She further thanked the Directors and cabinet members for their attendance at the meeting and wished them a good summer. Furthermore, she thanked the Technology Department for the improvement in the sound quality this evening. A great improvement from the June meeting.

The Board President then requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of

Personnel Matters – specifically, Interviews, Employee Contractual Matters, Personnel Transfers, Reorganization.

Legal Matters – Settlement P.R.

Contractual matters – Nursing Services, Rental of TCU's

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Rivera to go into private session at 7:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Bathelus -6

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa and seconded by Mr. Rivera to return to public session at 8:46 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes., Barbosa, Carvalho, Cheveres Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Bathelus -8

Negative: none

The following items were added to the Agenda:

Reorganization – Personnel Actions

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No.28 – Maria Avella

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No.21 – Victoria Smutek

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No.1– Christina Marie Madeira

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No.12– Marisa Meirinho

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No.27-Ameerah Boone

Resolution - Appointment of Interim Principal Edison Academy – Danny Ortiz

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No.23-Deborah Ferrao

Resolution – Appointment of Acting Vice Principal School No. 9 – Ana Amaral

Settlement Agreement – P.R.

Settlement Agreement – Bus Drivers Settlement

Ms. Bathelus asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, to approve the entire agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (June 27, 2024)

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (May 31, 2024)

Personnel Reports

Tuitions Report

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Report

Claims List

Resolutions:

Custodian of Records – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

Deferred Compensation Plan Administrator – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

Public Agency Compliance Officer – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

Section 504 Officer – Anthony DiDonato

Affirmative Action Officer – Samuel Etienne

India's Independence Day

Payment for Unused Sick Days

Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Modification to Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Capital Reserve

Five Year Curriculum Plan (2024-2029)

Programs of Study, High School Offerings, High School Strand & Sequence 2024-2025

Textbooks 2024-2025

Curriculum Repository Inventory 2024-2025

Requisition for Taxes

Renew Contracts for Janitorial Supplies

Settlement Agreement-Travel On USA

Appointing Silva's Mechanical Services, Inc. – Upgrade Hot Water System Dwyer/Halsey

Children's Literacy Initiative, Inc.

Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System

Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Reorganization-Personnel Actions

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 28 – Maria Avella

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 21 – Victoria Smutek

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 1 – Christina Marie Madeira

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 12 – Marisa Meirinho

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 27 – Ameerah Boone

Appointment of Interim Principal – Edison Academy – Danny Ortiz

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 23 – Deborah Ferrao

Appointment of Acting Vice Principal – School No. 9- Ana Amaral

Settlement Agreement – P.R.

Settlement Agreement – Bus Drivers Settlement

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Bathelus (with an abstention on tab 4b Item 1 use of facilities Zeta Phi Beta Sorority). -6

Negative: none

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Entire Agenda had passed.

School Superintendent Dr Hugelmeyer presented a series of slides that showcased the announcements for July.

- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy Class of 2024 graduate and Student Representative to the Elizabeth Board of Education Alondra Calva Giron was among 10 winners of the 2024 New Jersey MLK, Jr. Scholarship Essay Contest ‘Looking Back at Dr. King’s 1964 Nobel Peace Prize speech’. A virtual awards ceremony was held to announce the 2024 MLK Scholars who come from across the state and were selected by the New Jersey Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission. “The 2024 essay contest winners shared insightful comments about the significance of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. King as reflected in his remarkable speech,” said New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, who oversees the MLK Jr. Commission in her capacity as Secretary of State. “I applaud these young people for their commitment to community service and furthering the legacy of Dr. King through both their words and their actions.”

Hosted by NJ MLK JR Commission Chairman George Guy and members of the Commission, the ten scholars participated in the virtual ceremony to accept their awards.

“On behalf of the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission, we extend our congratulations to our ten MLK Scholars who will be moving onto post-secondary education in the fall,” said Commission Chairman George Guy. “Their essays about Dr. King’s famous Nobel Prize speech and how his work continues to inspire both their academic work and community service, gives us all abundant hope for the future.”

The 2024 MLK Scholars will be awarded \$5,000 scholarship for the university or college of their choice in the fall of 2024. Calva Giron will be attending Villanova University in September.

- Victor Mravlag School No. 21 music teacher Lauren Ferguson was selected as the winner of the 2024 Amistad Exemplary Award for the K-8 grade category by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The Amistad Commission’s Exemplary Award Program began in 2021 and is designed to promote teaching the Amistad curriculum in New Jersey schools, enhance the social studies literacy of students, and encourage the infusion of African American history into the social studies curriculum.

The intent of the award is to recognize and to celebrate the work of New Jersey’s best teachers, who have shown a commitment to furthering student knowledge on the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African Americans to our society.

Each year, the Award Committee selects for special recognition two outstanding educators instructing students in the New Jersey public education system to receive the Amistad Commission Exemplary Award: one teacher representing Grades K-8 and one teacher representing Grades 9-12. The maximum award is \$2,500 to each winning teacher, and \$2,500 to their district of origin. Lauren Ferguson was the

recipient of the award in the K-8 category and will be presented with the award at the Closing Dinner for the 2024 Summer Curriculum Institute on August 1, 2024 at the College of New Jersey in Ewing.

- The 2024 Association of Hispanic Health Care Professionals (AHPSI) Annual Elizabeth Community Health Fair will take place on Sunday July 21st at Jose L. Matin y Juan Pablo Duarte School No. 28 (25 First Street, Elizabeth) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The 2024 World of Summer Programs end dates are as follows:
July 19, CTE Summer Camp (Session 2) 6-8
July 24, Marine Corps JROTC (Review and Refresher)
July 26, CTE Summer Camp (Session 3) 6-8
July 31, Extended School Year PK-12/ Summer School Remediation 9-12/Summer School Advanced Credit 9-11/APEX Learning 9-12/ Rising Kindergarten Literacy Program K/Promotion/Retention K-8 SPELL Transition Program for ELLs K-1/ELS Enrichment K-11/Summer Arts Institute K-11/The World of Languages 9-12/Marine Corps JROTC (New Join Orientation) 9-12
August 1 Youth Athletic Program.
August 9 Special Needs Recreation
August 10 Sports Camps 9-12
- The Summer High School Graduation Ceremony will take place on August 1, at the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center.
- Welcome Back Letters will be sent to all Elizabeth Public School Families the week of August 19th.
- PowerSchool Student Schedule Accessibility for the 2024-2025 School Year will be available on Monday August 19.
- Parents/Guardians may access their child's teachers via the Power School Parent Portal by using these detailed Instructions for Contacting a Teacher in PowerSchool:
Step 1: Open your web browser and insert-epsnj.powerschool.com
Step 2: Type your Parent portal Username and Password
Step 3: Right Click over the teacher's name you need to contact and select copy email address
Step 4: Open your desired email program and paste the teacher's email inside the TO section of your email program. Write your message in the body of the email below and press send.
- Sixth Grade Students need the Tdap Menactra vaccines before the First Day of School September 6.
- A Free Immunization Clinic sponsored by Mayor Bollwage, the City of Elizabeth and the Department of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services is available for children ages 2 months to 18 years by appointment only. This is for Elizabeth Residents Only. To qualify for Free Vaccines, you must have Medicaid/Family Care Part A only or uninsured. To make an appointment visit elizabethnjvaccine.org.

Dr. Hugelmeyer gave a synopsis of the latest Student Assessment Results on the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) & Access for ELLs. The NJGPA is the assessment required for a high school diploma. Students take the NJGPA for the first time in March of 11th grade. March is also an opportunity for 12th graders who have not yet taken the NJGPA to take it as required for high school graduation. If a student is not deemed "Graduation Ready" in ELA, math, or both, they have the opportunity to retake the assessment up to two additional times and can also utilize an alternate proficiency assessment. In March 2024, we have had

close to 2,100 take the NJGPA. Scores range from 650 to 850 with 2 scoring levels: Not Graduation Ready 650-724 and Graduation Ready 725-850

March 2024 NJGPA results showed 72.6% of Elizabeth students were deemed Graduation Ready in English Language Arts vs a state proficiency rate of 81.6%. However, in Mathematics only 41.7% of Elizabeth students earned Graduation Ready status compared to 54.7% students across New Jersey.

Demographic Data for the District is broken down below:

Black Graduation Ready: ELA = 71.8% Math = 28.4%
Hispanic Graduation Ready ELA = 71.4 % Math = 41.9 %
White Graduation Ready ELA = 86.4% Math = 63.6%
Economically Disadvantaged ELA – 72.0% Math = 40.7%
English language Learners ELA = 35.7% Math = 20.0%
Special Education Students 52.1 % Math = 14.4 %

Dr Hugelmeyer reviewed the results of Access for ELLS results

All Multilingual Learners (MLs) in Grades K-142 are administered the ACCESS for ELL to determine the level of English language that each student has acquired and the best placement for each student moving forward.

ACCESS for ELLs assesses 4 language domains 1) Listening 2) Speaking 3) Reading 4) Writing
ACCESS scores are reported as performance in each domain and a composite (overall) score combining all 4

Performance is reported on a scale of 1.0 to 6.0

Average scores reported here include all levels of Multilingual Learners from those newly arrived to those ready to exit ELL status.

Spring 2024 ACCESS FOR ELLS RESULTS

Kindergarten Total Tests 914/ Listening Score 2.8 / Reading 1.6/Speaking 2.5/Writing 1.6 Composite 1.8
Grade 1 Total Tests 840/ Listening Score 3.3 / Reading 2.9/Speaking 2.2/Writing 2.0 Composite 2.3
Grade 2-3 Total Tests 1898/ Listening Score 3.1 / Reading 3.3/Speaking 2.4/Writing 2.7 Composite 2.8
Grade 4-5 Total Tests 1517/ Listening Score 4.6 / Reading 3.4/Speaking 2.8/Writing 3.2 Composite 3.3
Grade 6-8 Total Tests 1860// Listening Score 4.1 / Reading 2.8/Speaking 2.4/Writing 2.9/ Composite 2.9
Grade 9-12 Total Tests 2183/ Listening Score 3.5 / Reading 3.3/Speaking 2.2/Writing 2.9/ Composite 2.9
Total 2023 Total Tests 8433/ Listening Score 3.6/ Reading 2.9/Speaking 2.2/Writing 2.6/ Composite 2.7

On a motion made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, and seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Messer's. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Bathelus -8

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary