

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 20, 2014
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in Monsignor João Antão School No. 31, 1014 South Elmora Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the scheduled meeting Board President Tony Monteiro welcomed everyone to Monsignor João Antão School No. 31 which is home to William F. Halloran School No. 22 and thanked Principal Michael Webb, Vice Principal Yvonne McGovern, Vice Principal Chi-hui Seo Alfaro and the staff for allowing us to have our meeting here. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are continuing to have the Board meetings in different schools throughout the City of Elizabeth to encourage participation by parents and community members and not to hold them in just one location.

Board President Tony Monteiro presented the following statement at 7:20 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Monday, March 17, 2014. 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 and to our television viewers to this March 20, 2014 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. I also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, I may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. 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 sign in one hour prior to the advertised 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: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo (arr. 7:25 p.m.), Monteiro – 7

Absent: Ms. Bathelus, Mr. González – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Rafael Cortes, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Linda Seniszyn, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Comptroller William Greene, Supervising General Counsel/Board Attorney Marvin Lehman, and members of the public were in attendance.

Sandra Harte, Vice Principal of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Finance Academy gave the invocation.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michelle Sanchez, eighth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by Alyne Restrepo eighth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Brianna Richard, eighth grade student at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @31.

Mr. Monteiro introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mr. Monteiro recognized two former School Board Presidents Armando DaSilva and Rafael Fajardo who are present tonight.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from the Halloran Marching Batons who performed a baton routine. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from the William F. Halloran School No. 22 Jazz Choir who performed *Blue Skies*, words and music by Irving Berlin and arranged by Steven Zegree. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from the William F. Halloran School No. 22 Jazz Ensemble who performed *Puerto Del Sol*, composed by Carl Strommen. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance.

Mr. Monteiro introduced students from the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Liberty Players who performed *Working* from the musical *Working*, adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso. Mr. Monteiro thanked the students for the wonderful performance and stated that tickets are available for the musical *Working* which will be performed on April 10, 11, and 12 at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Theater and invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Neron stated that we are happy to be able to recognize a member of the community, an Elizabeth Public Schools parent and former Board President, Armando DaSilva. Mr. Neron stated that Armando DaSilva was recently awarded the Patriot Award which reflects the efforts made to support Citizen Warriors, Guardsmen, or Reservists through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed. Mr. Neron stated that tonight we recognize Armando DaSilva's contributions to support the men and women who serve our country. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated Armando DaSilva and presented him with a plaque of commemoration for community excellence.

Mr. Perreira recognized some of the outstanding students who contribute to the culture of excellence at William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31. Mr. Perreira stated that these students take on leadership roles in school events, are active in school fundraising activities, and contribute time and effort to the community through various projects. Mr. Perreira stated that the Board of Education is proud to recognize the student government at William F. Halloran School No. 22 for their dedication to supporting their school and their community including grade four students Brianna Carrasco, Tirzah Carvalho, Medhia Hollinshed, Alexia Martinez, Nicole Perdomo, and Zoe Rivera; grade five students Lisa Liaci, Maira Nadeem, Nicholas Rivera, Emma Ruiz, Matthew Suri, and Samantha Zuluaga; grade six students Geraldine Alfaro, James Bally, Santos Colon, Madison Huntley, Christian Ruiz, Kaylee Santos, Ivona Szaro, Kaileigh Volker,

and Chyanne Wallace; grade seven students Daniel Bonifaz, Ahmed Ghani, Jameir Jackson, Jessica Lage, Gisselle Negron, Steven Urdaneta, and Jakov Zamora; and grade eight students Augustine Ayala, Celine Gil, Joseph Kupka, Tyler Nichols, Fatima Pelaez, Daniela Rivera, and Aidyn Sanchez. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Nazco stated that this evening the Board of Education would like to congratulate the members of the Elizabeth High School Forensic Team for their excellent performance at the New Jersey Forensics League State Championship. Mr. Nazco stated that Forensics is the competitive speech and debate club of Elizabeth High School under the direction of coaches Renee Drummond and Brian Rodriguez. Mr. Nazco stated that the Forensic Team once again placed in many categories with two students taking State Championship honors. Mr. Nazco stated that the State Champions, Franklin Aguilar and Aaron Millado, are also awarded a scholarship of \$250.00 each by the New Jersey Forensic League and have been invited to be recognized at the Governors Awards in Arts Education in May for their outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Nazco stated that we are proud of our Elizabeth High School Forensic Team for continuing to achieve excellence in the arts including David Encarnacao, semi-finalist in Dramatic Interpretation; Roger Ortiz, semi-finalist in Humorous Interpretation; Jonathan Champa, fourth place in Poetry Interpretation; Franklin Aguilar, fourth place in Humorous Interpretation; Ariel Aguilar and John Paipilla, sixth place in Duo Interpretation; and Franklin Aguilar and Aaron Millado, State Champions in Duo Interpretation. Mr. Nazco stated that Aaron Millado also received an award for Outstanding Distinction for obtaining 1,018 points with the National Forensics League. Mr. Nazco and Board members congratulated the students and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Trujillo stated that William F. Halloran School No. 22 is an educational community where each team member contributes to creating the nurturing environment that fosters learning. Mr. Trujillo stated that every day team members welcome children and parents to a clean, well ordered school, provide them nutritious lunches, keep students safe, and teach them what they need to know to graduate, to be prepared to attend college, and to have a bright future. Mr. Trujillo stated that this requires nothing short of a team of dedicated individuals including custodians, secretaries, security guards, bus drivers, coaches, guidance counselors, and teachers. Mr. Trujillo stated that on behalf of the Board of Education he would like to recognize the team members of William F. Halloran School No. 22 for fifteen years or more of service including Gilma Alvarez, Marielvira Lambert, Rosaria Smeraglia, and Francisco Tamayo, Jr. with fifteen years of service; Marguerite Jensen, Donna Lanza, and Melissa Lorenzo with sixteen years of service; Maryann Gasper and Elizabeth Lee with seventeen years of service; Milagros Lau, Gloria Salerno, and Judith Simon with nineteen years of service; Maria Castro and Yvonne McGovern with twenty years of service; Carmelina Lombardi, Ellen Cohn, and Jorge Reinoso with twenty-five years of service; Annamaria Digeronimo with twenty-six years of service; Janet Payne with twenty-eight years of service; and Laura Sutura with thirty-six years of service. Mr. Trujillo and Board members congratulated the staff members and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that for the third consecutive year students of the Elizabeth Public Schools received warm coats this winter thanks to a collaborative effort among many local groups and businesses. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Marshall C. Brown Chapter of the National Black State Trooper Coalition of the New Jersey State Police has been running the coat drive in the cities of Newark, Camden, and Trenton for over ten years. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Chapter uses donations from State Troopers, community members, local faith groups, local businesses, family, and friends and then they purchase new coats from local Elizabeth businesses at a discounted cost. Mr. Rodriguez recognized the following organizations, individuals, and businesses for their generosity, time, and hard work in support of the Elizabeth Public Schools and the community of Elizabeth including New Jersey State Police Trooper Reinaldo Cruz; Wakefern Food Corporation representatives Lisa Day and Felix Hernandez; BJ's Wholesale Club

representative Jorge Ramos; Elizabeth Police Department Detective Amilcar Colon and Officer Jennifer Perez; Elizabeth Fire Department; Old Navy; At Hearts Length representatives Lester Dominguez, Guiliana Farina, and Julian Acebo; and Marvelis Perreira. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated them and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedule to come to the board meeting tonight. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is an important thing that we do taking our meetings throughout the City of Elizabeth to our different schools.

Board President Monteiro presented 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 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.”

Mr. Monteiro called upon the first public participant, Amanda Leon, to address the Board.

Amanda Leon, 19 Erie Street, stated that she is a member of the Elizabeth Education Organizing Committee and spoke about a bullying incident.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and requested Ms. Leon give her contact information to Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn.

Mr. Monteiro called upon the next public participants, Maximo Abreu and Loriann Loneker, to address the Board.

Maximo Abreu, student at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, spoke about the Audio and Visual Media program at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy and presented a video of the Thomas Jefferson TV (TJTV) broadcast. Mr. Abreu requested the Board of Education support the establishment of a dedicated channel for students to broadcast school activities, functions, and sporting events to Elizabeth Verizon FIOS customers with no cost to the Board.

Mr. Monteiro thanked him for his comments and stated that he has his full support and he hopes the entire Board will also support this. Mr. Monteiro thanked them for the outstanding work they do at the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy.

Mr. Monteiro called upon the next public participant, Mari Carmen Lojo, to address the Board.

Mari Carmen Lojo, teacher at Christopher Columbus School No. 15, stated that she has been employed by the Elizabeth Board of Education for the past thirty years. Mrs. Lojo stated that there have been many changes in our schools and we have the right to be proud of our early childhood centers, gifted and talented programs, National Blue Ribbon Schools, and our top ranked high schools. Mrs. Lojo stated that our test scores have shown significant growth over the

years and this is due to the dedication and efforts of a committed Board of Education whose main concern is the success of our students. Mrs. Lojo stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools is the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Lojo stated that she was appalled by the facts stated in an article in the USA Today dated February 26, 2014 titled *Federal Super PACS Spend Big on Local Elections*. Mrs. Lojo stated that it was in this article that she learned that the donations for the campaigns for school board seats of some Board members sitting in front of us tonight came from a bail bond company, law firms, online gambling, and developers. Mrs. Lojo stated that her main concern now is what were these companies promised in return for their very large contributions. Mrs. Lojo stated that she must have been very naïve to think that these seats were won with clean money and asked what does the future hold for the children of Elizabeth when corruption has played a part in placing these Board members in positions that will determine the direction that the Elizabeth Public Schools will go. Mrs. Lojo stated that she has a copy of the article with her and asked if Mr. Monteiro has seen it.

Mr. Monteiro thanked her for her comments and stated that he has seen the article and will make sure that the Board members receive a copy of the article.

Mr. Monteiro called upon the next public participant, Rafael Fajardo, to address the Board.

Rafael Fajardo, 131 Palisade Road, stated that it is so good to see so many great people who work for the children of the City of Elizabeth for so long and congratulated them for the tremendous effort and work they do for the children in our City. Mr. Fajardo stated that Elizabeth is a beacon of education in the State of New Jersey and he had the blessing to have served on this Board of Education for a few years and to be part of the success story of this education system. Mr. Fajardo stated that there is a tremendous history that we have accomplished in this City over the last fifteen to twenty years. Mr. Fajardo stated that he remembers when his children attended the Elizabeth Public Schools having 35 to 40 children in the classroom and it was a failing school system and it was horrible. Mr. Fajardo stated that today all of our children are in uniforms, we have tremendous academic programs, we were able to build many schools including School Nos. 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 50, 51, 52 and we opened every Catholic school that was closed down in this City for years and we turned them into schools. Mr. Fajardo stated that he speaks here with the highest respect for all the members of the Board of Education and knows how difficult it is to sit up there and serve and give your time to the children. Mr. Fajardo stated that he knows that they do not get paid for their services so it takes a lot of dedication to do that. Mr. Fajardo stated that when he read the article that the previous speaker referred to he was appalled that a bonds industry will give candidates for the Elizabeth Board of Education \$70,000. plus so much from the liquor industry and the casino industry. Mr. Fajardo asked what do those people have in common with education in our City and why are they giving so much money to the education system in our City. Mr. Fajardo stated that it is shameful that anyone would accept money like that to sit on the Board of Education. Mr. Fajardo stated that he hopes that in the future this does not happen because our education system and our children should be respected. Mr. Fajardo stated that we should never be associated with people who bail out all those kinds of unwanted individuals in our society and what do they have in common with our children. Mr. Fajardo stated that he hopes in the future that this will not happen.

Mr. Monteiro thanked him for his comments.

Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mr. Monteiro declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

Mr. Perreira stated that he read the article that some of the speakers talked about. Mr. Perreira stated that he has been here for three years and he knows how much time he puts in to the work that he does for this district and the amount of time it takes away from his children not being there with them, not being there to do homework with them, not being able to put them to

bed a lot of times. Mr. Perreira stated that it is all because of what he has to do to make sure the district hopefully is performing at a higher level. Mr. Perreira stated that it saddens him to know that he has to compete with individuals who choose to take money from institutions that have no bearing whatsoever and no intention whatsoever as to anything to do with our public education system here in New Jersey, here in Elizabeth. Mr. Perreira stated that it saddens him that he has to compete against hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars to be in a position that is volunteer and we are not paid for and it's all to make sure that kids in this City, the ones that are supposed to fail according to statistics, get a better chance, a better opportunity, a better education. Mr. Perreira stated that the individuals who put together these Super PACs do it because it is another notch on their belt. Mr. Perreira stated that one of the statements from the famous Senator Ray Lesniak that was in that article is that he is coming this year to finish the job. Mr. Perreira asked finish what job and stated that he didn't understand the statement and it is sort of condescending to a certain extent. Mr. Perreira stated that he is appalled that a person who says he grew up in this City and is a product of Elizabeth chooses to treat the school system that way. Mr. Perreira stated that he would like to ask if the Board of Education would support him in putting a resolution together to send to Senators in Washington. Mr. Perreira stated that these laws are approved in Washington that allow Super PACS to go into little towns and fund campaigns that make changes and differences to us locally and to the people that live here. Mr. Perreira stated that our children go to our schools and why should anyone from outside of our town be able to tell us what we should do and who they are going to put into office. Mr. Perreira stated that is why he is asking his colleagues to support him in a resolution to send to U.S. Senators Menendez and Booker.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he has had the pleasure of serving the community in this capacity since his first election in 2007 and in 2010 he was re-elected. Mr. Trujillo stated that he recently was re-elected to his third term this past November. Mr. Trujillo stated the reason he mentions this is because a lot of this money that everyone is concerned about was used to fund a campaign against him and at that time his running mates. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has always been one to support the ideas in this country where we should have an electoral process where people are allowed to pick their leaders and people who best suit their ideals especially for their children. Mr. Trujillo stated that being a father of two children who attend this school district he has a vested interest personally everyday with his children. Mr. Trujillo stated that apart from being here all his life he loves this City and so he serves with a lot of passion and love for his City. Mr. Trujillo stated that he like Mr. Perreira is worried when we are allowing outside contributions from people who really have no interest in education and quite frankly he can't imagine what their interest is. Mr. Trujillo stated that bail bondsmen, liquor distributors, and gamblers and all that is left is a prostitution ring, and maybe next they want to legalize prostitution and drugs in our schools and are we going to be selling alcohol in our schools and will there be gambling in our classrooms and do they expect our children to go to prison. Mr. Trujillo stated that he expects our children to go to college, not prison. Mr. Trujillo stated that he hopes we teach them here to avoid all those vices and to live clean lives, be responsible citizens and maybe perhaps someday leaders in their communities. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is very unfortunate that this is our reality today but it doesn't have to be that way. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have an opportunity as citizens to speak up and tell our elected officials in Trenton that we don't want this to be able to happen. Mr. Trujillo stated that local elections should be handled locally, the local people should have a vested interest and they should be able to support the candidates they want without having outside influence. Mr. Trujillo stated that it really tilts the table when you have that kind of money coming into a school board race. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is perverted and very unfortunate and is worrisome and we should all be worried if this practice continues.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he also has the honor of being the chairman of the Legal Committee. Mr. Trujillo stated that ahead of time he and Mr. Perreira spoke and he has prepared a resolution which he will distribute with the Board President's permission and he will introduce to the body.

Resolution – Concerning the Alarming Intrusion of Unidentified Special Interest “Super PAC”

Money into Local Elections

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Trujillo asked this Board to consider passing this resolution and to support this. Mr. Trujillo stated that we need to make a stand and our children's education is way too important to put into the hands of special interests. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are going in the right direction in this town when it comes to education and the schools are doing better and we see it every day. Mr. Trujillo asked for people to go throughout the country and find a school system that has had this much success in creating so many programs and building so many schools and you will find very few if any that can match what we have been able to do. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have done that here with a grassroots effort, taking our message to the people of this City, engaging parents to get involved in their children's education, hiring the best, the most talented people we can find to put in the classrooms and in our buildings and to continue to support those people and to fight for the funds that are required to fund all those programs and initiatives. Mr. Trujillo stated that all in all with very little cost to the taxpayers of this City. Mr. Trujillo stated that not only have we been financially sound, we have zero debt service, and these schools belong to the citizens of this City. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is very concerned that if we fail this initiative the next election will bring more money and more corruption. Mr. Trujillo stated that is what he is worried about and when people are for sale things are bad and we cannot afford to leave our children's future in the hands of those who are just willing to look at this system as a piggybank for personal gain. Mr. Trujillo stated that the money needs to stay here for the children and that is what we have concentrated on. Mr. Trujillo asked his colleagues for their support of this resolution.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would love to support this resolution. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the only thing is he wished he would have gotten this earlier and he would love to do some research. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is behind him on this and doesn't agree with that Citizens United case that the U.S. Supreme Court handed down even though all these Super PACs are legal. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would have loved to support him but getting this resolution two minutes before he has to vote on it and not being able to do his due diligence as a Board member in terms of research. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would have liked this earlier so he could do some research.

Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez accepted this money.

Mr. Rodriguez responded that is a lie.

Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Rodriguez benefited from this. Mr. Trujillo stated that if he says he didn't then simply just condemn the act, support this resolution and be on the record as being for the children of the City of Elizabeth, condemn the fact that liquor distributors, bail bondsmen want to get involved in education and they have no place in education. Mr. Trujillo asked if Mr. Rodriguez would agree that they have no place in education.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Trujillo is bordering on the line of being unethical. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is bringing politics into education and we are supposed to be here working together for the children not doing this political grandstanding that he is doing. Mr. Rodriguez stated again like he told him before that he would love to try to get him on that and that they never accepted money and he can check on the ELEC, a government site that is all open and he can take a look at what he and his fellow candidates accepted and it is all there for the entire public to look at and they can look and decide for themselves. Mr. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Trujillo claiming that they took this money and benefitted and so on and this Super PAC from what he has seen has worked within the law. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he appreciates that Mr. Trujillo has his opinion and there are varying opinions on that but they did not take any

money from these liquor stores, gambling, nothing like that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that everything is up to par and if he would like to take a look it is on ELEC.gov.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she chose to be a Board member and it is something that she takes with pride. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that being involved in education she has no problem and doesn't need time because she needs to support this and it is something important. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that we are talking about children and if we are not talking about anything else we give a bad example to our children. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that they work very hard to provide the best education to our children. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she is embarrassed about all this and she works with a school system where everyone is running for re-election and it is an appointed Board so a lot of things could happen and she hasn't heard anything close to this. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she is truly embarrassed and has to apologize to the community, the parents, the staff, and the administrators. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she runs for office, works very hard knocking on doors, and was called the Hispanic Hillary Clinton because she was knocking on every door to ask people for their votes. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that she never thought this would go this far. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that being a Board member is an honor to do something for our children and she totally supports this 100%.

Mr. Neron stated that Mr. Rodriguez made a statement earlier and said their records are public. Mr. Neron stated that there was an election in 2013 where he and Mr. Rodriguez were opposed as candidates and were successful in their election not because of Super PACs but the involvement they have in the community. Mr. Neron stated that he has a record in this community for twenty-two years being involved in the community and doing the work that he does. Mr. Neron stated that their records are public and he thinks it is a shame that we would waste taxpayers' time, dollars and efforts sitting here and creating a dialogue and making this a political discourse. Mr. Neron stated that this is a forum where we are supposed to discuss education and education issues so let's be ethical and let's discuss those issues, let's discuss board agenda and let's keep politics out of the school district. Mr. Neron stated that let's make our children the first priority and that is what we should focus on. Mr. Neron stated that a resolution like this, as Mr. Rodriguez has stated, that is presented to him right at the Board meeting when you just want me to accept it is unacceptable and is unethical to be talking about this right now at this forum. Mr. Neron stated that if you want to have this discussion we can have it at another meeting, at another forum and we can talk about your views and our views and where we should go. Mr. Neron stated that he does believe we are ready to take this district in the right direction and take it to another level and just make the improvements where it's needs to be made and make sure that all our children get equal opportunity education and they are able to excel and become the leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Trujillo commended Mr. Neron for his service to this community but he earned this seat and he has an opinion and Mr. Neron doesn't get to dictate to him what is an educational concern or not. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is a father of two children who go to this school district and this is an educational concern to him and many of his constituents. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has an opportunity here to voice his opinion and make change in his district. Mr. Trujillo stated that if Mr. Neron feels that he is doing something unethical there is a commission where he can file those charges. Mr. Trujillo stated that he will fight them because he has a right to come here and voice his opinion. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't have to vote for this but Mr. Rodriguez claims not to know anything but he claims to tell everyone here that they did nothing wrong so either he knows about it or he doesn't know about it. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't have to support it and he didn't expect him to support it. Mr. Trujillo stated that quite frankly he gave it to him because he is a member of this Board out of respect for all of you and he gave each one of them because he has to and doesn't expect Mr. Neron to vote for this either. Mr. Trujillo stated that he really sincerely believes they benefitted from this and that is his personal opinion. Mr. Trujillo stated that Mr. Neron shouldn't come here and try to lecture him on what is politics and what is education. Mr. Trujillo stated that he runs for office and he gets elected and he has a right

to stand up for his constituents and they are concerned about the money that is coming into this district and affecting these races and this is not new. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is not a new concern and has been going on for several months. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is not a new article and we know about this. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is unfortunate that they will not denounce the process and that is fine because he didn't expect them to. Mr. Trujillo stated that he believes that they both benefitted from it and he believes that they will continue to benefit from it. Mr. Trujillo stated that to come here and try to tell him what he can or cannot say is ridiculous. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has been elected three times now and the reason he continues to get elected is because he stands up for our children, he supports teachers, better education in our City and he says it how it is. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is dirty money and it has no place in any election not only here at the Elizabeth Board of Education, at City Council or even election for President. Mr. Trujillo stated that people should know where the money is coming from and they have a right to know. Mr. Trujillo asked what are they hiding. Mr. Trujillo stated that they should just disclose it and that is the problem. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are hiding and asked what is the interest. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know but he has to be suspicious.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that in the interest of having transparency politically he would challenge Mr. Trujillo in any future board of elections if he is really serious about transparency is to voluntarily disclose any money from one dollar to the max in the future. Mr. Rodriguez stated that if he is serious about the transparency issue he would challenge him to disclose all monies even underneath the three hundred dollar mark. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would love to see if he would agree to reporting any dollar amount and let's do full transparency.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he respectfully agrees and disagrees with some of these points. Mr. Monteiro stated that he has been in politics going on twenty-six years and around the week of February 23rd he got a call from a national reporter from the USA Today, a national newspaper, calling him about the Super PAC. Mr. Monteiro stated for those who haven't seen the story that Mrs. Lojo spoke about and Mr. Fajardo spoke about, we can certainly provide copies about this particular story. Mr. Monteiro stated that it was outrageous to him and quite frankly he was taken back because when we had the elections in September and October and this is where he respectfully has to disagree with Mr. Neron or actually he should agree with him that we have to keep politics out of the Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is so right that we have to keep politics out of the Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro stated that when you have an all mighty, all powerful State Senator Raymond Lesniak, a 34 year incumbent legislator, who was quoted in the USA Today that it is his Super PAC and he is proud of this Super PAC that raised over \$150,000. Mr. Monteiro stated that this money started to pour into this local school board election, and this local school board election is local because it is our school board election for the children of Mr. Trujillo, for the children of Mr. Perreira, and it's for your students and it's for all of us, it's local and it matters to us. Mr. Monteiro asked why would a Washington Super PAC and Senator Ray Lesniak spend \$150,000. Mr. Monteiro stated that \$85,000. is from the bail bondsman, the people who protect the felons that want to put them back out on the streets, and they are spending \$85,000. on the Elizabeth school board elections. Mr. Monteiro asked why would the internet gambling association from Nevada want to spend \$15,000. to \$20,000. on the Elizabeth Board of Education. Mr. Monteiro asked why would all these legal firms associated with Senator Ray Lesniak spend \$40,000. on the Elizabeth school board election. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is a school district that transformed itself from one of the worst to one of the best, the Number One Urban School District in the State of New Jersey, and you would have all this outside influence coming in so he disagrees with Mr. Neron that it is politics entering our Elizabeth school board. Mr. Monteiro stated that although, respectfully, Mr. Rodriguez can say that they don't control that PAC he is correct but they could also repudiate it and condemn the Super PACS. Mr. Monteiro stated that is what this resolution here is today to condemn the Super PACS, to say no more. Mr. Monteiro stated that Ray Lesniak quoted in the article that more school board positions are up again this fall in November and he is going to support three candidates and he is going to finish the job. Mr. Monteiro stated that Ray Lesniak said he along with his Super PAC will be active to finish the job, so bail bondsmen, internet gambling, alcohol

beverage companies, New York Longshoremen, are getting involved in our Elizabeth school board races. Mr. Monteiro stated that he didn't say this but Senator Raymond Lesniak said this. Mr. Monteiro stated that several months ago when all this money was pouring into the Elizabeth school board races and he is a local boy born and raised here, and a local election is just that, local, nickels and dimes, and we raised money having fundraisers to support the cause if you believe in us. Mr. Monteiro stated that if you believe in what we are doing you support us and if you don't believe in us you don't and you support our opponents. Mr. Monteiro stated that this is a Washington Super PAC and is happening not just in Elizabeth, it is happening in California, Texas, and is happening all over this country. Mr. Monteiro stated that he supports Mr. Trujillo's resolution that we call on U.S. Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker to get involved and open up their eyes to recognize what is going on because it won't stop here at the Elizabeth school board. Mr. Monteiro stated that it will happen at all school boards and it will happen in Long Branch, Morristown, it will happen everywhere, and it will happen in City government, and it is happening now in City government with special interests. Mr. Monteiro asked why IKEA doesn't pay property taxes or the Jersey Garden Mall and stated that it is because of special interests and because Senator Ray Lesniak represents those special interests that we are talking about and it's a problem. Mr. Monteiro stated that it's not unethical to talk about this, this is our Board of Education, and this is our children's education and these are our schools and our schools are not for sale. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have to tell Senator Ray Lesniak and any of his candidates that he puts up that it is not for sale. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is a democracy and you can run for office and you can run for any one of the seats and more power to you if you run and you believe you can do a better job and have better ideas and better solutions. Mr. Monteiro stated that no, not the bail bondsmen, or internet gambling, or alcohol beverage companies, or New York Longshoremen and asked why are they playing in our backyard. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Neron may be correct and not know anything about it but they were certainly proud when Senator Lesniak swore them in at the Reorganization meeting and he boasted and he was proud of it. Mr. Monteiro stated that today he is just as proud that he is going to finish this job. Mr. Monteiro stated that Senator Ray Lesniak has a lot to do with Kean University right now and there is a lot of chaos going on and they are about to start privatizing jobs over there. Mr. Monteiro stated that they want to start privatizing Kean University and want to dismantle their union because they are speaking out against what is going on. Mr. Monteiro stated that don't let it happen here in Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that you work too hard, the principals and administrators give it their all and turned this school system around. Mr. Monteiro stated that it wasn't us, it's the teachers and the administrators who are doing one great job and give them the credit where credit is due but let's not go back to the old ways. Mr. Monteiro stated that Senator Ray Lesniak controlled the school board once fifteen years ago and we know what we got. Mr. Monteiro stated that Ray Lesniak hasn't stepped foot in a school here since that day he came in to swear in the Board members, he hasn't stood here with us, he hasn't asked Trenton to give us more money, and all he ever does is want to bash. Mr. Monteiro stated that to sit here and be proud of the fact that he poured in \$150,000. through Super PAC money out of Washington, D.C., and Mr. Rodriguez is correct that it is legal, but it's sad that it's legal. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is happening at the presidential level and now it's coming down to our local levels. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have to fight back and say enough, let the locals, let us say what is right for our schools and the children, not some Super PACS out of Washington. Mr. Monteiro stated that he supports this from top to bottom and it is courageous. Mr. Monteiro stated that all of our Board members should support this and this isn't politics, this is just a condemnation and a pushback saying that all Super PACS should stay out of Elizabeth, school boards, City Council races, whatever it is, stay out, and stay in Washington, and let us do the people's business and let us do this for the children.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 5

Abstain: Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 2

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is abstaining because he would love to work with this with his colleagues and the entire Board of Education but when he gets paperwork two minutes before a vote he can't in good conscious vote for it so he is abstaining at the moment.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated the two students who spoke earlier and congratulated them for the work they are doing and stated that he would support to petition Verizon FIOS for a community channel for Thomas Jefferson TV. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is great to see our students doing things that will translate right into the workplace right away when they graduate. Mr. Rodriguez commended them for the excellent work they did.

The Board went into recess at 9:15 p.m.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, and Monteiro reconvened in public session at 9:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2014 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo returned to the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of January 2014

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco (abstain- J.C., C.B.), Neron, Perreira (abstain- M.P., G.D.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mr. Rodriguez stated that last month we had tabled a request for Councilman Gonzalez to use School No. 14 on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would like to move it off the table and move it to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he spoke with Mr. Trujillo who had tabled it at the last meeting because the same request came in from Mr. Gonzalez asking Mr. Trujillo if he had met to his satisfaction whatever he was looking for. Mr. Monteiro stated that Mr. Trujillo indicated he did not. Mr. Monteiro gave Mr. Kennedy instruction to leave it off the agenda.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his issue was that he was coming in at the same time there was a program but he was assured that the program ends at 7:00.

Mr. Monteiro stated that he spoke with Mr. Trujillo who indicated he was not prepared to put it on for further research.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if someone were to table it then it is up to them to bring it back in.

Mr. Monteiro responded no and stated that he is giving him the benefit of the doubt and another go around and if he doesn't have the answer then we'll look to move it with all the Board members.

A motion was made by Mr. Nazco, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez (abstain-At Heart's Length), Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is abstaining on At Heart's Length and will be speaking with Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Hugelmeyer because he does not believe it is a registered non-profit.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he worked with a gentleman, Mike Johnson, at the YMCA who worked with some of the excellent staff and faculty that we have here in Elizabeth. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the YMCA alliance with the healthy program is a great program and goes

along with the district's goals. Mr. Rodriguez stated that hopefully his colleagues would support this entire report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez (abstain-YMCA), Trujillo (negative- YMCA), Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is abstaining from the YMCA because he worked with Mike Johnson to try and get this moving.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that her report includes highlights from InsideEPS beginning with the article *The 2014-2015 Budget of the Elizabeth Board of Education is Introduced at March 20th Board Meeting* and this budget year has presented numerous challenges for us as a community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the increase in student population, expenses in a number of key categories from our budget and most importantly our commitment to equity, expectations, and excellence have required us to work arduously in an effort to present a budget that is true to our core values. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for her the question we ask ourselves is "In challenging times such as these, how do we establish a budget that is truly representative of our core values, helping us to move onto our next level of work?" Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that preparing for this budget required our team to truly understand the challenges we have before us and she can say confidently that our core values revolve around the success of our students, the support of parents and guardians, and a commitment to the taxpayers of Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that first and foremost are the needs of all of our children and the focus of our resources is truly directed toward the instructional core. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we reviewed every line item to ensure that we reallocated any available resources so that we could sustain the programming and gains that we have over the years achieved as a district and we understood the needs of parents and guardians who have high expectations of us to deliver a high quality education for every student and we are committed to that mission. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a key focus of this administration is fairness and the equitable distribution of resources throughout our district and this helps us to create the greatest impact in learning for every student, in every school, for every community, throughout Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we recognize that the needs of our community are important and here at the Elizabeth Public Schools we have maintained our commitment to the ideals stated above and we truly recognize that the financial challenges we confront are great and they have tested our will and perseverance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 2014-2015 budget has a 0% tax increase for this budget year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that it does provide for many sacrifices throughout the organization but it also provides for many rewards for our children as it will continue to prepare them for a post-secondary education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have been blessed with extraordinary facilities that have been provided to us by the State of New Jersey and we have high quality teachers and team members who help run New Jersey's top urban school district but most importantly the citizens of Elizabeth and our Board of Education have high hopes for us to get this important work accomplished. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that those partners along with our union representatives and our dedicated team members will continue to help create the success stories of year to come. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is truly honored to serve as the Superintendent of this school district which has a rich legacy and commitment to setting high standards for our children and together through these times we will have every child achieve excellence.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next article is the *Alliance Awards Highlight Equity in Health and Physical Education* and the Elizabeth Public Schools continues to achieve equity and compete on a national level. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that six of our schools have received new or higher award status in the National Healthier Schools program according to the latest published recognitions from Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Alliance for a Healthier Generation is an organization that focuses on reducing childhood obesity as well

as promoting healthy lifestyles for America's youth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2013 three schools moved from Bronze to Silver level, while three schools received awards for the first time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that by October the four remaining schools not currently in the National Healthier Schools program are projected to receive award status in 2014 and their addition will result in 100% district participation in the program highlighting the fact that the Elizabeth Public Schools is addressing equity throughout all areas of its students' educational experience. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that one of those areas in which the district is addressing equity, physical education, is among seven focus areas outlined by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that points of emphasis from the Alliance in regard to physical education include getting kids moving at least half the time they are in class and providing students the skills to remain active on a lifelong basis. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that within the district students participate in the exercise of the month, a filmed fitness session that links exercise to the New Jersey Department of Education's Physical Education Common Core Curriculum Standards and in addition the Division of Special Services is working to create new initiatives and partnerships to help serve the special education population in the area of physical fitness. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that recently they met with representatives of the New Jersey Special Olympics in an effort to participate in the Special Olympics initiative labeled Project UNIFY. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Special Olympics Project UNIFY is an educational-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change, fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities and this is an extraordinary program that also is linked to the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that these types of programs have earned the Elizabeth Public Schools Physical Education Department the respect of its peers from throughout the State of New Jersey as a result of the development of creative ways to blend fitness with academics across the district throughout the instructional day. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Supervisor of Physical Education Joe Przytula along with Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Principal Jennifer Cedenio presented Beyond the Walls of the Gymnasium – Changing a School Culture at the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NJASPERD) Conference in Long Branch in February. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the topic which featured new and creative approaches to address childhood obesity drew the attention of many educators and physical fitness professionals from throughout the state and in fact many of those present chose to subscribe to the EPS Physical Education Department's email network so that they could stay connected to the district's latest fitness and wellness initiatives. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that another way in which EPS is addressing equity to enrich its students' educational experience is in health education which is another area of the National Healthier Students Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Alliance emphasizes skill-based instruction to teach kids about important health behaviors like good nutrition and physical activity which are featured at the district's annual Healthy Leap Expo. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this event now in its seventh year is held in cooperation with the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce and Trinitas Regional Medical Center and is the largest teen obesity awareness event in the U.S. according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that over 2,000 students from the district's six high schools participate in workshops, receive health screenings, view health demonstrations and have the opportunity to take part in over 40 interactive exhibits. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this year's event is scheduled for May 29 at the Dunn Sports Center. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that through the district's participation in the Alliance's National Healthier Schools Program, EPS has made great strides in achieving national recognition in the areas of health and wellness and on a larger scale the district is achieving equity at all levels of development across the curriculum and throughout all areas of the student's educational experience through its broad spectrum of initiatives.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the last article is *EHS Forensics Team Competed at the New Jersey Forensics League State Championships* and the two day competition hosted over 30 schools and over 600 students from around the State. Mrs. Hugelmeyer congratulated the team and coaches Renee Drummond and Brian Rodriguez for their outstanding work this year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that last weekend the EHS Forensics Team competed at the District Tournament held at Delbarton and congratulated Franklin Aguilar, District Champion in

Humorous Interpretation, Aaron Millado, Second Place in Humorous Interpretation, Franklin Aguilar and Aaron Millado, Third Place in Duo Interpretation, and Elizabeth High School, Third Place in Speech and Fifth Place in Overall. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in order to qualify for nationals students must place in the top three in their category and Franklin Aguilar and Aaron Millado double qualified and will be representing Elizabeth High School and New Jersey at the National Speech & Debate Association National Tournament in Overlook Park, Kansas. Mrs. Hugelmeyer congratulated the Elizabeth High School Forensics Team and coaches Renee Drummond and Brian Rodriguez for their outstanding accomplishments this year.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked the Board and stated that this concludes InsideEPS.

Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer and her entire staff for the incredible hard work that they faced and the numerous challenges they faced with regard to the budget. Mr. Monteiro thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer along with all of her team for working very long hours for the past several weeks. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is truly honored to serve on this Board with such a dedicated, talented group of individuals who work in this district. Mr. Monteiro congratulated all the young men and women on all the teams who have been achieving incredible heights.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron (negative- Donation from Mr. Perreira for After School Reading Incentive Program), Perreira (abstain- Donation from Mr. Perreira for After School Reading Incentive Program), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 6

Abstain: Mr. Monteiro – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Monteiro requested that the contracts for Codework Systems and Fibertech Networks be held for private session.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the amended report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Rodriguez, Trujillo – 5

Abstain: Messrs. Perreira, Monteiro – 2

Negative: None

Resolution – Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Autism Awareness Month

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – National Library Week

Mr. Perreira read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Houston Education Research Consortium - Olga Hugelmeyer

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Rodriguez praised Mrs. Hugelmeyer and stated that what she does is incredible and the work she does is beyond the 24/7 job description. Mr. Rodriguez stated that she works nonstop and has the children's lives in her hands along with faculty and staff. Mr. Rodriguez stated that along with the School Business Administrator they do a wonderful job and it is not always perfect and not always easy. Mr. Rodriguez commended them for the hard work that they do along with their staff.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this resolution is for Superintendent Hugelmeyer to attend a conference sponsored by the Houston Education Research Consortium at Rice University in Houston, Texas on July 10-11, 2014. Mr. Monteiro stated that he hopes we have the full support of the Board and it is a great consortium and is at no cost to the Board.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

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, specifically L.M., M.G., E.M., G.S., G.R., P.P., and J.T., reorganization, resolution for grievance matters, 2014-2015 budget submission, revised 2013-2014 calendars, contracts for Codeworks and Fibertech, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying results; and workers' compensation cases, specifically, D.G., M.R., M.S., A.V., and N.D. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to go into private session at 10:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

The Board reconvened in public at 1:45 a.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Resolution – Adoption of the Tentative Budget 2014-2015 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Trujillo commended Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Greene, and the entire staff for preparing this budget along with the Superintendent. Mr. Trujillo stated that as many are aware this is going to be a tough fiscal year for the school district but nevertheless found a way to close a very large gap trying to minimize the impact on the instruction that we offer here in the district. Mr. Trujillo stated that what makes him really proud is the fact that we are going to be able to offer a budget with a zero tax increase to the local community. Mr. Trujillo stated that as you know it is very lean times and the families have to choose between what bills they pay and how they pay them and it is a tough decision and it's not just homeowners because often homeowners have to pass the cost to renters as well and they are affected. Mr. Trujillo stated that when he travels throughout the City one of the things when he talks to constituents at their doorstep is the cost of housing that is so expensive not only to homeowners but to the renters. Mr. Trujillo stated that whenever the homeowners are burdened with more tax normally they pass that cost to the tenants and the seniors feel it the most with their fixed incomes. Mr. Trujillo stated that everyone in general can feel it because it is tough economic times and it feels like in this country we have been in this hole for maybe the last ten years or so, it may not be that long but it feels that long and it feels like forever that people are struggling to pay their bills. Mr. Trujillo stated that

unfortunately last year we found ourselves in a similar situation. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have contractual obligations that we have to meet and we had to burden the taxpayers. Mr. Trujillo stated that this year we are able to go back to what we did two years ago and the year before that with a 0% tax increase and he is very proud of that. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is fiscally responsible and it will call for some lean times and people in the district are going to have to learn to do more with less, a lot more with less. Mr. Trujillo stated that eventually if this kept up it would be really tough. Mr. Trujillo stated that he wants to go on record to say that the one thing that really bothers him is the fact that the labor contract is the way it is. Mr. Trujillo stated that in order to move this district forward it is a partnership with several partners, this Board, the administration and the union. Mr. Trujillo stated that its unwillingness to negotiate and ease the pain and it would rather see their own members lose their jobs then to negotiate. Mr. Trujillo stated that when we negotiate these contracts we negotiate in good faith and he supported that contract and he was on the negotiating committee and he believes that in order to have a great school district we have to pay people more and be competitive and parity. Mr. Trujillo stated that other school districts recruit these people and offer them more money and in order for us to have that kind of quality of employee we have to have parity and it is important that we are competitive. Mr. Trujillo stated that yet we are so generous and so appreciative that we have given a great contract to this bargaining unit and for them not to be willing to work with us really says a lot about their leadership and he is concerned about that. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is disappointed because he thought they had a better relationship. Mr. Trujillo stated that he thought we have done so much over the years, at least in his tenure since he has been here he has been able to negotiate several contracts with them and he always believed in paying them well, they deserve the money and he still does. Mr. Trujillo stated that he still believes that we should pay them well and we do, we pay them very generous for the reasons he mentioned. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is disappointed that we are going to see cuts and there are going to be positions that get cut in this budget and that means families that are not going to be able to provide for themselves. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a tough decision and we have been through this before and he remembers cutting way more than this and we came back from it. Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Kennedy if this is the last year of this contract.

Mr. Kennedy responded that 2014-2015 is the last year.

Mr. Trujillo stated that there is hope in the future that we will have a better contract and hopefully we will have more funding. Mr. Trujillo stated that nevertheless here we are and commended everyone for being able to close this gap. Mr. Trujillo stated that he looks forward to bringing this budget to the public and having their input and listening to their concerns. Mr. Trujillo stated that he wished he didn't have to do it this way, that there was more money and it was easier to do but unfortunately this is our reality and he commends them for a great job. Mr. Trujillo stated that \$38 million is a big hole and to be able to present a balanced budget is just astonishing.

Mr. Perreira stated that he is the chair of the Finance Committee and we spent a lot of time discussing this for the past several months with a lot of meetings. Mr. Perreira thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer and her staff for putting together this budget which was very tough. Mr. Perreira stated that there were very tough decisions and any time you have to let go of staff and affect families and people's lives it is not an easy decision to make. Mr. Perreira stated that it can't be done lightly and without exhausting any and every opportunity we have. Mr. Perreira stated that at the end of the day we are here to educate children and that is our primary function and that is what we always have to stay focused and keep in mind. Mr. Perreira thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer, Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Greene, Assistant Superintendents, Directors, and Supervisors who took their time and effort to put this budget together.

Mr. Neron stated that once again he wants to echo the sentiments of fellow Board members in commending the staff and the Superintendent on a great job. Mr. Neron stated that it is a very difficult decision to make. Mr. Neron stated that being one of the newest Board

members a lot of evaluation and consideration has to be taken and he spoke to the Superintendent about just evaluating and looking at some of the strategies that are going to affect not only the staff but the students that we are looking to provide excellent services for and he looks forward to sitting down with her and evaluating the budget and also evaluating some of the services we provide. Mr. Neron stated that we are put here to be good stewards over the budget and over the services we provide for our students and it is our goal to make sure they achieve their highest and best with the possible resources that we do have and he knows the staff is working diligently to do so. Mr. Neron stated that he wants to make sure that he takes an effective role and sit down to do his due diligence with the Superintendent and work closely with her to see what else we can do before we arrive to a final conclusion. Mr. Neron thanked them for all their great work and crunching numbers and trying to do the very best that they can.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that as a Board of Education we have many important goals and things to do but one of the most important is to prepare and pass a budget. Mr. Rodriguez commended everyone involved from the committees, fellow colleagues, and staff, Chief School Administrator, Mr. Kennedy, and Dr. Greene. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is a tough budget and schools need money and we never get enough no matter what. Mr. Rodriguez stated that a large district like ours or a small district, it doesn't matter, we never truly have enough money to give our students everything we want. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he believes that this budget will show the importance and what we hold dear in this district and thanked them for the effort they made.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this was a challenging year in challenging times and this was a difficult budget. Mr. Monteiro commended the Superintendent and her entire team, those who are sitting here and those who left and worked long hours in the last several months in getting to this point today. Mr. Monteiro stated that he knows the Superintendent was given a directive by him and the Finance Chairman that we really had to take everything into account and we asked for a very lean budget knowing that the taxpayers of the City of Elizabeth are somewhat overwhelmed and inundated with the taxes that they pay on their properties. Mr. Monteiro stated that last year unfortunately the Mayor and City Council spread a lot of misinformation about our budget, our tax increase on the levy, and they threw a lot of numbers out there that were not the case and were not true. Mr. Monteiro stated that it will be his pleasure in the next weeks ahead and the next several months ahead to take this budget and presentation of our budget on the road. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is prepared to do as many town meetings where need be to explain how this Board of Education has been fiscally conservative over the years and how we balanced the budget year after year. Mr. Monteiro stated that many of these past years over the last ten years we have given the City 0% tax increases and here we are again today doing the same thing. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is going to ask that our City Council do the same, these are tough times, and we are going to ask them to hold the line on the tax increases in the City and to do more with less. Mr. Monteiro stated that there is pain and sacrifice that goes along with the budget of this magnitude. Mr. Monteiro stated that the Superintendent and her team had to cut \$38 million dollars and they had to find a way. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is remarkable with what they did with this budget and he wants the people at home to know and understand that the equity, expectations, and the excellence of this district will continue and we don't think we are going to skip a beat as Mr. Trujillo said we look to do more with less. Mr. Monteiro commended the Superintendent and all his colleagues sitting here tonight because these are dedicated individuals who are proactive and really care about this school district and they don't get paid to be here. Mr. Monteiro thanked each and every one of them and especially thanked Board member Paul Perreira who as our Finance Chairman this year did a remarkable, outstanding job attending the numerous meetings that he has attended and keeping himself and the team apprised of what was taking place. Mr. Monteiro stated that we knew it was going to be difficult but we are excited at the same time and we are not going to skip a beat. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are going to go forward. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have another great year coming ahead and we have one of the best Superintendents in the State and certainly one of the best teams of qualified confident teachers and staff here in this school district. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have always risen to the challenge and although there may be bumps in the road and some difficult times we

will overcome and continue on our path to becoming the Number One School District in the State of New Jersey and thanked everyone for the time they put in.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Neron – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Neron stated that he is abstaining with the understanding that he will be meeting with and talking to the Superintendent about further evaluating some of the changes that are being made.

Award of Contracts – Codework Systems and Fibertech Networks

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the contracts for Codework Systems and Fibertech Networks be accepted and placed on the Award of Contracts Report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Descriptions

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Revised 2013-2014 Calendars

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2012-27977 – A.V.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim No. 2010-21905 – M.R.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2012-12410 – D.G.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim No. 2012-12410 – N.D.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with Pay effective March 13, 2014 and Termination effective April 2, 2014 – E.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with Pay effective March 13, 2014 and Termination effective April 2, 2014 – J.T.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with Pay effective March 13, 2014 and Termination effective April 2, 2014 – R.S.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with Pay effective March 19, 2014 – P.P.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement between EBOE and L.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreements – EEA Grievants - Docket Nos. AR-2011-058, AR-2011-424, AR-2012-172, AR-2012-273, AR-2013-040

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Monteiro – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement between EBOE and M.G.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

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

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim 2012-19596 – T.C.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was no old business to discuss Mr. Monteiro asked if there was any new business to discuss.

Mr. Trujillo stated that there were recent articles published in the Local Source and there have been reported some irregularities in the Elizabeth Police Department where allegations are being made of officers not showing up to pay jobs. Mr. Trujillo stated that there are several officers who resigned and if you followed the stories in the paper it quotes many different sources alleging that there are other irregularities and problems in the Police Department. Mr. Trujillo stated that he personally feels that this is a leadership problem within the Police Department but his concern is that we are an employer and often we use these police officers to come in and work these side jobs just like today there were two police officers assigned here. Mr. Trujillo stated that over the years we have spent millions of dollars on police services throughout the district

patrolling the outside of our schools in order to provide a safe environment. Mr. Trujillo asked if there is a way to audit these past years and stated that he will bring it to the Legal Committee. Mr. Trujillo stated that his understanding is that when these police officers work these paid jobs they provide a slip to the head of security and he documents the time for which they worked. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know if we have been victimized or been a victim of this practice of not showing up to these jobs. Mr. Trujillo stated that he doesn't know if there is a process or a possibility of having a way to investigate if this is the case here in the district. Mr. Trujillo asked Mr. Kennedy if we keep these slips.

Mr. Kennedy responded that we have support and we are sent the payrolls from the City.

Mr. Monteiro stated that many of you have probably read the Local Source that is delivered to many of our homes and pertaining to a very troubling story taking place in the Elizabeth Police Department in regard to these no show paid jobs. Mr. Monteiro stated that he believes two Elizabeth police officers have been indicted and twenty plus have been sent back to the Police Department for an internal investigation. Mr. Monteiro stated that he received numerous calls at home and office and he has been approached by many people on the street in regard to these no show jobs. Mr. Monteiro stated that police have been not showing up to these jobs and most of them took place at the Senior Housing Complexes throughout the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that these seniors were left being unprotected when they thought they were having these police officers on the job. Mr. Monteiro stated that our concern as a school board and as President of the school board is that we are probably one of the largest customers of the police department for pay jobs. Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Kennedy how much we pay to the Police Department.

Mr. Kennedy stated that we currently budget \$175,000. for those services.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we currently budget \$175,000. for these paid jobs for the Elizabeth Police and in the past few years that number has exceeded \$400,000. for paid jobs.

Mr. Kennedy responded that is correct.

Mr. Monteiro asked how we can possibly know if these police officers were doing the jobs with all these allegations and this all coming to light and we obviously want to know if our children are being left unprotected. Mr. Monteiro stated that he would like to move a resolution to seek an audit of the paid police in the Elizabeth Public Schools and presented a resolution to his colleagues.

Resolution – Seeking an Audit Concerning the Use of Paid Police in the Elizabeth Public Schools

Mr. Monteiro read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is important and he commends him for bringing the resolution. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is very concerning and he has spoken with several people over the last weeks since the first article broke. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is very important that as leaders in this community and as policy makers for this district we have an obligation to make sure that we were not victimized. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is no different than a current employee stealing from the district. Mr. Trujillo stated that if this is in fact someone stealing services from us we need to get to the bottom of that. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is unfortunate and he knows many good police officers in this City and many who are really upset that this is taking place and they have tarnished their careers. Mr. Trujillo stated that these are proud people who serve the community every day and do an excellent job with what they are given but what this does to the morale at the Police Department is incredible. Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately this is the product, in his opinion, of poor leadership and this is a Director who doesn't live in the City of Elizabeth and who is out of touch with the realities of the residents here and has taken his eye off

the ball and this is festering through. Mr. Trujillo stated that if you read the editorial published this week the police are asking this reporter to please get the story out. Mr. Trujillo stated that the first week it was just a few and now it is dozens of officers calling for help and asking for the attorney general to step in. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is very concerning and is very sad and it's a sad day in Elizabeth that this is happening. Mr. Trujillo stated that first and foremost he is going to support this resolution and he asked his colleagues to do so as well because we need to make sure we are on the record of trying to do the right thing by the school children. Mr. Trujillo stated that if they at any time left seniors unprotected in Senior Housing and he read one post where one lady claimed her father fell at one of these places and was out in the cold in December for over two and one-half hours before anyone found him and finally called her sister and this was one of those days that she alleged there should have been a police officer there. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is afraid that maybe at one of our schools there may have been a time where something could have been prevented and maybe a police officer should have been there and could have prevented it. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have always had a large police presence around our schools to keep our children feeling safe and to deter people from hurting our children. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is unfortunate and he hopes the audit is done and we find that nothing was done but he is prepared to deal with the findings when we get them. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is going to support this and hopes everyone else does. Mr. Trujillo commended Mr. Monteiro for presenting this resolution.

Mr. Monteiro requested Mr. Goncalves to provide a report of what the process is with regard to the hiring of the police officers we hire now for the Board, how does the process work, do they sign in, and who supervises them. Mr. Monteiro asked whose responsibility is it to supervise them, is it ours or is it the Police Department, and who on the Police Department actually supervises them. Mr. Monteiro asked for the report for the next Board meeting because a lot of people in the City are certainly asking these questions. Mr. Monteiro asked for the total support, unanimous support, of this Board and anything other than a yes vote to support this, an abstention or a no vote against this resolution would be a vote against the safety of our school children and against the transparency of what is taking place. Mr. Monteiro stated that all we are asking for is an audit of our pay jobs that we currently have and that we have had in the past to make sure the sanctity of these jobs and the safety of our children is paramount and primary.

Mr. Trujillo asked if we currently have some kind of service agreement with the Police Department and if there is a contract that includes the details of what is expected of them.

Mr. Goncalves responded that we do have written procedures with the Police Department.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Monteiro – 5

Abstain: Messrs. Neron, Rodriguez – 2

Negative: None

Mr. Neron stated that he is abstaining because some questions were asked and Mr. Kennedy has given us the appropriate answers as to the accountability that is provided by the Board and the Elizabeth Police Department. Mr. Neron stated that let not the actions of a few dictate an entire Police Department that's duty is to protect and serve each and every day. Mr. Neron stated that he is also abstaining because it poses a conflict of interest for him.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is abstaining because again he would like some more information and while he understands the concerns and does not like to pay anyone for no show jobs. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he doesn't think anyone wants to pay for that but he would like to get some more information. Mr. Rodriguez stated that obviously this resolution is moved now and we have to vote yes, no, or abstain but he wishes we had some more information.

Mr. Monteiro stated that let the record reflect that he is taken back by his colleagues' abstentions here because this is nothing more than seeking an audit of what is going on in the Elizabeth Board of Education regarding the police. Mr. Monteiro stated that he doesn't think that the questions that they would want to ask or need to ask could be asked and this is nothing more than asking for the full transparency and safety of our children in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is a little taken back by Mr. Rodriguez because a couple of years ago he called for the very resignation of our Superintendent Munoz and Board members for their inactions. Mr. Monteiro stated that if he was going to do that then he should certainly step up now and do the same regarding this. Mr. Monteiro stated that we are not asking for anyone's resignation and as Mr. Trujillo alluded to it is probably a lack of leadership. Mr. Monteiro stated that there are a lot of fine men and women at the Police Department and Mr. Neron is right a few don't speak for the rest and there are a lot of good men and women right now. Mr. Monteiro stated that right now, as Mr. Trujillo stated, there is fear in that Police Department, there is trouble in the Police Department when twenty plus police officers are speaking anonymously off the record to a reporter and fear for their jobs and fear the retribution. Mr. Monteiro stated that all we are asking for is transparency. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is difficult to run for office and much harder when you get here to govern but the double speak can't happen. Mr. Monteiro stated that we have a situation here in this City that calls for immediate action and a Board that is taking the action to be transparent, open, and honest with the taxpayers and with all the residents in the City.

Mr. Neron commented that earlier he stated that we needed to focus on the issues that affect the youth of this City and the education of the City and he understands his concerns. Mr. Neron stated that he thinks the role that this resolution is positioning is more a role of City Council and not the role of a Board of Education. Mr. Neron stated that he just needs us to really stay focused and for us to position ourselves to question the leadership of other agencies or other entities of government is not our place. Mr. Neron stated that we need to really focus and we have a hard enough task worrying about the day to day issues in our own district and not burden our staff and Superintendent with the issues of other agencies and especially the municipality.

Mr. Nazco stated that he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Neron and the essence of the resolution is for us to conduct an audit to look at the records in all of the jobs that have been worked by the Police Department and to make sure that the investment that we are providing into the Elizabeth Police Department is something that we are getting our full fair value for. Mr. Nazco stated there have been issues where certain members of the Elizabeth Police Department have been getting no show jobs and we have a duty as a Board to make sure the funds we are custodians of are being spent correctly. Mr. Nazco stated that as far as the resolution it is very important that Mr. Kennedy provides the audit to make sure that we are receiving the services that we paid for.

Mr. Trujillo stated that he agrees with Mr. Neron as it is the duty in part of the governing body of the City of Elizabeth and unfortunately they are doing nothing and they are saying nothing and doing nothing. Mr. Trujillo stated that is a concern because they should be asking us for the records and they should be conducting this audit and investigation. Mr. Trujillo stated that this was kicked back to them from the Prosecutor's Office to do an internal investigation and until now all they are doing is ignoring the problem and it will not go away. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is a problem within the Police Department and he has spoken with police officers who are desperate and unfortunately they are reaching out to City Council members and the call for help is falling on deaf ears. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are elected officials in the City and we have the right and the obligation to hold people accountable and call it as it is even though this may not be a direct educational issue it does affect our schools and our children. Mr. Trujillo stated that unfortunately we have a City Council that has decided to do nothing about it. Mr. Trujillo stated that they hire the Police Director and they vote on it. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is convinced that they have a leadership problem at the Police Department and he spoke with police officers both retired and current who said there is a problem. Mr. Trujillo stated that this worries him because

it is his understanding from what he read in these articles and the conversations he has had that this has been going on for years and this is a culture that has been created and just been ignored and swept under the rug. Mr. Trujillo stated that he wouldn't be surprised if we had fallen victim to this and if somewhere along the line the children's money was being stolen. Mr. Trujillo stated that we pay for a service for the Police Department and we take educational funds to pay for a service because educating children includes creating a safe environment that is both inside the school and around the school. Mr. Trujillo stated that he remembers when the PBA President went as far as saying he was afraid of our children at dismissal. Mr. Trujillo stated that now here we find this and he doesn't blame all the cops, he knows a lot of good cops in the department and has spoken with many of them and they are bursting at the seams hoping that the people at City Council and the Mayor's Office, people who have the authority to actually do something, to take action and they are quiet. Mr. Trujillo stated that we just can't sit here and ignore it because it isn't going to go away. Mr. Trujillo stated that it may cause a conflict for Mr. Neron and he doesn't want to put him in that position because he is employed by the City and works with youth and he is sure that a lot of the programs that he deals with have to deal with police officers on a daily basis and he understands that. Mr. Trujillo stated that we can't ignore it and this is being reported in the newspaper for the last four weeks, one after another and it just gets worse and worse. Mr. Trujillo asked if you have heard City Council mention it and stated that they haven't said a peep so either they are ignoring it or they are complacent. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a shame that we have a City Council that will not stand up for the taxpayers and if they cannot bring the Police Department in order we have a problem at City Council and a leadership problem in this City.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that his vote may have been construed. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he made the same comment with Mr. Trujillo's resolution where in theory he does support his resolution and in theory he does support this resolution and that is not the issue. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he abstained because of the process and he got this resolution a few minutes before. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he was elected to ask questions and he is sure they have their opinion of whether he should or should not ask questions. Mr. Rodriguez stated this would be a resolution that if brought up a week or a month before and he had some time he would probably be more likely to support it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is not about does he support the resolution or not it really is about the process. Mr. Rodriguez stated that they may not like it and think it's a cop out and that is your opinion and it is a comment on the process.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that along those lines since this budget is so lean this year and we are looking to see where we can cut and we are affecting people's lives by rifling them to make this budget. Mr. Rodriguez stated that currently it is in litigation but a former Board of Education member here tonight, Rafael Fajardo, who the Supreme Court has said owes us, the district, \$64,000. and the Supreme Court came out and made that decision that the funds that he used in that case were improper and that we are owed that money. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he is going to ask Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Lehman if they can give him a report that he can pass on to his fellow Board members. Mr. Rodriguez stated that in time they can look at it and ask some questions and also find ways that we can get money back from people that have taken it from our students. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it is in litigation so we can't comment too much on it but we can do our due diligence and slowly find out what is going on and ask some questions. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he can give his colleagues some time to also do their due diligence and ask questions and find out what is going on and move on from there. Mr. Rodriguez stated that is about the process.

Mr. Monteiro stated that it wasn't more than two or three years ago when Mr. Rodriguez stood in front of School No. 1 with signs in front of a podium calling a press conference and he asked for the resignation of Superintendent Pablo Munoz. Mr. Monteiro stated that Pablo Munoz had done nothing wrong but it was a year that a Board member was being charged for the food lunch application and Mr. Rodriguez was calling for the resignation of Pablo Munoz. Mr. Monteiro asked if that was correct.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that for many reasons that is correct.

Mr. Monteiro stated that we now have a leadership issue at the Elizabeth Police Department and two police officers were indicted. Mr. Monteiro stated that it pales in comparison to a free food lunch application by a board member who didn't receive a pension, didn't receive pay. Mr. Monteiro stated that now there are a dozen officers leaving senior citizens unprotected and asked if Mr. Rodriguez would now stand in front of the Police Department and call for the resignation of the Police Director. Mr. Monteiro stated that here you have two people who have been indicted and pled guilty and this Board member still hasn't gone to trial. Mr. Monteiro stated that in this case the police officers pleaded guilty and many others have been kicked back and now Mr. Neron is talking that this matter isn't a Board of Education matter. Mr. Monteiro stated that he totally disagrees because we are probably the largest customer of the Elizabeth Police Department for paid jobs and now there is an incredible concern here whether they are doing the paid jobs. Mr. Monteiro stated that he believes they are but God forbid you have one or two of those rogue cops that possibly, might have, could have left our children unprotected. Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Rodriguez if he is now going to call for the resignation of the Police Director like he did on our former Superintendent.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he did his research when he asked for that resignation of the Superintendent and there were many reasons.

Mr. Monteiro stated that these two police officers were indicted.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they have been punished and their pensions have been taken.

Mr. Monteiro stated that their pensions were not taken and they kept their pensions.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they have been punished and their jobs have been taken and they have gone through the court system and so they have been disciplined.

Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Rodriguez if he doesn't think there is a leadership problem at the Elizabeth Police Department.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he has no idea and he has to take a look and he doesn't like to make rash decisions. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he likes to do his research and find out.

Mr. Monteiro stated that this report is far from over. Mr. Monteiro responded to Mr. Neron's point which he respectfully disagrees with and stated that this is a Board of Education matter. Mr. Monteiro stated that if he understood Mr. Neron correctly, he is also correct in urging that this matter shouldn't really be handled by the Elizabeth Board of Education and he agrees with that but if he understands Mr. Neron we should be asking City Council to investigate this matter.

Mr. Neron responded that it is 2:30 a.m. and he doesn't think we should be deliberating on this any longer. Mr. Neron stated that he thinks we made our points for the evening and he is not making any more further comments.

Mr. Monteiro asked Mr. Neron if we should have City Council investigate this matter.

Mr. Neron stated that he is not making any more further comments and it has nothing to do with why he came here this evening.

Mr. Monteiro stated that on one hand we have Mr. Neron saying that it is not about the Elizabeth Board of Education and this is a matter for the Elizabeth City Council. Mr. Monteiro agreed with him that Elizabeth City Council should be investigating this matter and he would be willing to give enough time for his colleagues to study the proposal for a resolution for the next

meeting that we ask City Council that they investigate this matter auditing the Elizabeth police regarding Elizabeth public education. Mr. Monteiro stated that he is willing to do that and the point is clear that we want full transparency, open and honest government and you can't have double standards.

On a motion by Mr. Monteiro seconded by Mr. Trujillo, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Nazco, Neron, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Monteiro – 7

Negative: None

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