

APPROVED
Bd. Mtg. 4-19-12

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 15, 2012
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on March 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi Purpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Marie Munn presented the following statement at 7:35 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 Friday, March 9, 2012. 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 15, 2012 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. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo,
Mrs. Munn – 7

Absent: Pastor Burgos, Mr. Perreira – 2

Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Board Attorney Kirk Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Jennifer Barrett, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Community Outreach Jerome Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer, Executive Director of Human Resources/Labor Attorney Karen Murray, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Gonçalves, Comptroller William Greene and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Francisco González 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.

Mrs. Munn commented that it is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Congressman Donald Payne and called for a moment of silence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kevin Ferreira, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key was performed by students in Voices of Harmony from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Monica Figueroa, eighth grade student at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26.

Mrs. Munn introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Munn introduced students from the Voices of Harmony at Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26, who performed *I'll Be There* by Berry Gordy. Mrs. Munn thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Munn introduced students from Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Band, who performed *Milestones* by Miles Davis with a trumpet solo by Brandon Wreckler and an alto saxophone solo by Kevin Ferreira. The students also performed *Memories of Dunhuang* by composer Gao DiXiang and arranger David Bailey with a piano solo by Kevin Ferreira and a soprano saxophone solo by Deiontay Hall. Mrs. Munn thanked the students for a wonderful performance.

Mrs. Munn stated that tonight we are recognizing the teachers who achieved teaching excellence based on the State Assessments from Spring 2010 and Spring 2011. Mrs. Munn stated that the 172 awards are based on achievement rates for specific curriculum in the areas of math, language arts, and science with many of our teachers being recognized for more than one curriculum. Mrs. Munn thanked the teachers on behalf of the Board of Education for their commitment in making a positive measurable difference in student achievement. Mrs. Munn stated that each teacher will be presented with a Keys to Excellence Teaching Award and a pin representing excellent achievement.

Mrs. Munn introduced Assistant Board Secretary Donald Gonçalves who recognized the teachers who achieved the 2009-2010 Keys to Excellence Teaching Award including George Washington School No. 1 Math: Starlett Harris, Susan Hernandez, Karin Navas, Carson Steltz, and LAL: Carson Steltz; Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 Math: Michael Billian, Jr., Ligia Cravo, Claude Dallemard, Steven Siracusa, LAL: Ligia Cravo, and Science: Michael Billian, Jr., Larry Morgan, Jr.; Joseph Battin School No. 4 Math: Bernadette Bange, Randi Farber, Michael Piazza, Veronica Vega, and LAL: Bernadette Bange; Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Math: Benson Onyeugbo, Isabel Rodriguez, Ronald Szotak, LAL: Ronald Szotak; Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 Math and LAL: Josephine Rodriguez; Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Math: Kristi Godfrey, Yao-Hsuan Huang, Alak Parmar, Tanya Tenturier, LAL: Karen Canton-Malet, Jean-Louis Kong, Kelly McHugh, Jessica Yost, and Science: Nicole DiStefano; Elmora School No. 12 Math: Elizabeth Duda, Marsha Hendel, Barbara May, LAL: Elizabeth Duda, Marsha Henkel, and Science: Elizabeth Duda, Marsha Henkel; Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 Science: Dana Schneiderman; Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 Math: Marie Andrews, Loretta Davis-Chambers, Nicole Gebhart, Sarah Minervino, LAL: Marie Andrews, Nicole Gebhart, and Science: Marie Andrews; Christopher Columbus School No. 15 Math: Benedetta Mosby, Amy Uetz, Jennifer Whitford, Ruth Young, and Science: Jennifer Whitford; Madison-Monroe School No. 16 Math: Elizabeth Flynn, Michelle Lourenco, Gwen Tenenbaum, James Villarino, LAL: Michelle Lourenco, James Villarino, and Science: Gayle Gesualdi; Theodore Roosevelt School No. 17 Math: Carol Pobuta, Katia Teixeira, and Science:

Katia Teixeira; Robert Morris School No. 18 LAL: Sara Todaro; John Marshall School No. 20 Math: Barbara Bampoe-Parry, James Caulfield, Jr., and Science: Michelle Charles, Teresa Parisi-Alvarez; William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 Math: Ellen Cohn, Traci Freeman, Marci Hackett, Marguerite Jensen, Samira Laskey, Elizabeth Lee, Robin Pier, Rosaria Smeraglia, LAL: Marguerite Jensen, Samira Laskey, Melissa Lorenzo, Lisa Rafoa, Judith Simon, and Science: Cynthia Szabo; Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 Math and LAL: Lori-Anne Cummings; Charles J. Hudson School No. 25 Math: Nicole Kovacs, LAL: Elise Gemmell; Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Math: Erin Devaney, Cheryl Episcopo, LAL: Joan Gibb, Jane Gladis, and Science: William Clark; Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 Math: Shivy George, LAL: Stacie Negron-Olmo; Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 Math: Isabel Sousa; Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 Math: Michelle Damanski, Jaqueline Encarnacion, Jessica Gallico, Joanne Imperiale, Doris Moskowitz, Lisa Stankiewicz, LAL: Michelle Damanski, Jaqueline Encarnacion, Doris Moskowitz; Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 Math: Nancy Frigoletto, Jami Grysman-Carlino, Patricia Mahon, Kristina Mitovski, Jessica Serafin, Catherine Simon, and LAL: Jami Grysman-Carlino, Jessica Serafin, Dolores Stapinski. Mrs. Munn and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Gonçalves recognized the teachers who achieved the 2010-2011 Keys to Excellence Teaching Award including George Washington School No. 1 Math, LAL and Science: Linda Gruss; Winfield Scott School No. 2 Math: Barry Gastelu; Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 Math: Claude Dallemand; Joseph Battin School No. 4 Math: Bernadette Bange, Mario Paternoster, LAL: Bernadette Bange; Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5 Math: Vera Matos-Pereira, Brenda Mesko, Benson Onyeugbo, Ronald Szotak, LAL: Vera Matos-Pereira, Lucia McEntee, Brenda Mesko, Ronald Szotak; Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Math: Sarah Becker, Vanessa Clark, Traci Freeman, Kristi Godfrey, Abby Hersch, Maria Labrador, Kimberly Pantano, Alak Parmar, Tanya Tenturier, Tina Zaghera, LAL: Vanessa Clark, Tammy Jones, Lisa Kaverick, Maria Labrador, Franc Lacinski, Lynn Rubin, Katia Teixeira, and Science: Nicole DiStefano, Megan Roszkowski; Elmora School No. 12 Math: Marsha Henkel, Barbara May, LAL: Marsha Henkel, and Science: Marsha Henkel, Barbara May; Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 Math: Lakeya Hix-Thompson, Edward King, Addie Lea Latza, LAL: Edward King, and Science: Lara Filippello; Abraham Lincoln School No. 14 Math: Marie Andrews, Michael Billian, Jr. LAL: Marie Andrews, Melissa Boyars, Sarah Minervino, and Science: Marie Andrews, Anne Johnson; Christopher Columbus School No. 15 Math: Jill Aller, Alexandra Barnat, Mariestelle Magliano, Barbara Mandela, Sandra Schocket, Amy Uetz, Jennifer Whitford, Ruth Young, LAL: Jill Aller, Sonya Ameli, Christine Lucia, Barbara Mandela, Amy Uetz, Jennifer Whitford, Ruth Young; Madison-Monroe School No. 16 Math: Phyllis Taub; William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 Math: Ellen Cohn, Marcy Hackett, Marguerite Jensen, Samira Laskey, Elizabeth Lee, Lisa Rafoa, Stefanie Sacca, Palak Shah, Rosaria Smeraglia, LAL: Samira Laskey, Elizabeth Lee, Melissa Lorenzo, Lisa Rafoa, Carmen Rooney, Science: Colleen Flanigan; Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 Math: Lori-Anne Cummings, Eileen Doherty, Gail Salmanowitz, LAL: Lori-Anne Cummings; Charles J. Hudson School No. 25 Math: Michelle Delbene, Dina Faria, LAL: Michelle Delbene, Denise Gertner, and Science: Michelle Delbene; Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 Math: Erin Devaney, Cheryl Episcopo, John Kumar, Patricia Mahon, LAL: Nicholas DeMarco, Cheryl Episcopo, Jane Gladis, and Science: William Clark; Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 Math: Susan Cameli, Shivy George, Stacie Negron-Olmo, Amber Palombo, LAL: Susan Cameli, Staci Negron-Olmo, and Science: Connie Sanchez; Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 Math: Dana Gaines, LAL: Donna Stanislawczyk-Stiles, and Science: Barbara Nutt-Fahoury, Donna Stanislawczyk-Stiles; Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 Math: Joanne Imperiale, Doris Moskowitz, LAL: Michelle Damanski; and Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30 Math: Milena Maya. Mrs. Munn and Board members congratulated the teachers and presented each with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Munn congratulated the teachers and stated that they are appreciated and thanked them for their hard work and efforts. Mrs. Munn stated that we look forward to continuing the achievement in our district.

Mr. Nazco commented that this reminds him of our first perfect scores rally and it was inspiring then to see the happy faces of all the children and now we see the happy faces of the teachers. Mr. Nazco stated that the teachers are the reason that the Board members are here and any decisions that are made by the Board and administration and anything that affects the children goes through the teachers. Mr. Nazco congratulated the teachers and thanked them for their efforts and stated that the teachers have inspired us to keep doing what we are doing.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina commented that being in education seeing all of the teachers is a great satisfaction and next year she would like to see double the amount of teachers. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina stated that teachers take care of the most precious possession that anyone could have, our children, and thanked all of the teachers.

Mr. González congratulated the teachers and commented that he is proud of all of the teachers and the great job they do educating our children. Mr. González stated that we are recognizing the teachers for a great accomplishment and encouraged them to continue the great work and next year will be bigger and better.

Mr. DaSilva stated that a lot of time in this district the emphasis is on the little things that take place and no credit is given to the great work that the teachers do in this district. Mr. DaSilva commented that today is a great day to reflect on what is important in this district and it is all about teaching our children and making sure they learn. Mr. DaSilva stated that the thanks come from all the Board members to the teachers who do the hard work in the classroom. Mr. DaSilva thanked the teachers as a father who has three children in the district like most of us that are here that have children, and thanked the teachers for the passion that they have in this district and for all their hard work.

Mr. Donoso commented that as a parent with two children in the district, as a taxpayer, and as a Board member, he is encouraged to have his children in our school district with so many teachers guiding them and teaching them and congratulated the teachers for their hard work.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is not often that the Board members have the opportunity to be around so many great people. Mr. Trujillo stated that for him the profession that you have taken is the most noble of all, that you do not get to choose who you touch and every year you get a new class and have to adapt with the changes that we make here and the administration and the children that walk into your class with an open mind, and you adapt to the situation and make the best of it. Mr. Trujillo stated that although we sit here and talk about the three Blue Ribbon Schools and all the great things it wouldn't be possible without what you do, that it is not just a job, it is hard work to leave your home every day and rise up to the challenge to continue to succeed. Mr. Trujillo stated that he noticed several teachers receiving multiple pins. Mr. Trujillo stated that Elizabeth is a better town and a better place to live because you chose to have your career here and encouraged the teachers to continue working hard for our children. Mr. Trujillo stated that we trust you with our children and give them to you every day and thanked the teachers.

Superintendent Pablo Muñoz congratulated the excellent teachers here tonight and stated that there are many moving parts and variables to public education but ultimately how students learn, how they increase their learning and growth over time is the relationship between the teacher, the student and the content and that is the instructional core. Mr. Muñoz stated that as we continue to improve as an organization and we help more students become better, go on to

college and earn high paying jobs ultimately what matters is the interaction of great teachers. Mr. Muñoz thanked the teachers for their great work.

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the minutes of the meetings of February 8 and 16, 2012 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of January 2012

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absences, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco (abstain-M.F., S.G.), Mrs. Munn – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, 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 (abstain- America's United Soccer Academy, Merlin Soccer Club), Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Nazco, that the requests be approved as recommended.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Muñoz highlighted the excellent news of the excellent experiences our students have had since our last Board meeting. Mr. Muñoz quoted Dr. Seuss in honor of Read Across America Month, “The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” Mr. Muñoz stated that Board of Education Vice President Fernando Nazco and Board members Paul Perreira and Francisco González joined the Read Across America celebration by reading to students at Madison-Monroe School No. 16, Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31, William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31 and Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, former Board member Rafael Fajardo read to students at Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31 and former Board member and Councilman Carlos Cedenó read to students at Robert Morris School No. 18, along with many guest readers at schools throughout the district. Mr. Muñoz highlighted excellent news including Elizabeth High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team won the Group IV Sectional Championship, students from Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 visited Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, Pennies for Patients at George Washington School No. 1, students from Toussaint L’Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6 visited the Union County Courthouse, study of China at Ronald Reagan Academy School No. 30, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 in partnership with the Greater Newark Conservancy hosted a parent/child/teacher workshop on promoting healthy food choices, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy partnered with 21st Century Pace Program and Union County College to offer students coursework in the Pharmacy Tech Program, study of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by students at George Washington School No. 1, students at Madison-Monroe School No. 16 visited Rutgers University and Montclair State University, Poetry Slam at Toussaint L’Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, students in AP Biology class at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy used inquiry based study, students at Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy competed in the annual New Jersey High School Consumer Bowl for the third year in a row, celebration of Black History Month at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Early Childhood Education, George Washington School No. 1 and Elmora School No. 12, and students at Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 visited the Meadowlands Environment Center in Lyndhurst for a day of scientific discovery. Mr. Muñoz congratulated the Elizabeth High School Forensics Team and Head Coach Renee Drummond for winning fifth place overall at the Novice State Festival in Montville, NJ and individual successes including Jonathon Chamba and Franklin Aguilar, 2nd Place Duo Interpretation; Aaron Millado, 1st Place Improvisational Acting; David Figueiredo, 5th Place Storytelling; Francisco Esteves, Quarters in Supplemental Debate; Arturo Esquivel and Isaac Jimenez, 3rd Place in Duo Improvisational Acting; and Kristina Boxnic and David Figueiredo, 6th Place Duo Improvisational Acting. Mr. Muñoz stated that you can continue to follow the

excellent news and all the excellent activities that our students and teachers are doing in our schools by following us on our website, www.epsnj.org, EPStv, Facebook, and YouTube.

Mrs. Munn thanked Superintendent Muñoz for his report.

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Make Application, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. González, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González (abstain-Panasonic Leadership Associates Program), Nazco, Perreira, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

2nd Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Mrs. Munn – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report – Award of Contracts, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Mrs. Munn – 6

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Autism Awareness Month

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Donate Life Month

Mr. Donoso read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Donoso, seconded by Mr. González, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – National Library Week

Mr. González read the resolution.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

The second reading was done of the following revised bylaw, policies, regulations, and exhibits:

1314	Soliciting Funds from and by School Personnel Policy
1330	Use of School Facilities Policy
4111	Recruitment, Selection and Hiring Policy
4211	Recruitment, Selection and Hiring Policy
5141.6(R)	Suicide Awareness and Prevention Programs Regulation
5141.6(X)	Suicide Awareness and Prevention PSA Form Exhibit
5141.6(X)	Suicide Awareness and Prevention PSA Letter Exhibit
5141.6(X)	Suicide Awareness and Prevention Crisis Contact Exhibit
6000.2	Accountability and Assessment
9270	Conflict of Interest Bylaw

Resolution – Revised Bylaw, Policies, Regulations and Exhibits

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Town Hall Meetings

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

Mr. Nazco asked his colleagues for their support for this resolution that will make a concerted effort to reach out to the community and keep them abreast of what is going on for the education of our children in this great City. Mr. Nazco stated that other than attending the regularly scheduled Board meetings and being able to view them on television or the computer, this allows us as well as the community further insight and to inform the community what programs are available and the excellent things that are happening in our district. Mr. Nazco stated that he is eager to sit alongside his colleagues on this Board to meet with the community and discuss their needs.

Mr. Trujillo asked his colleagues for their support for this resolution and stated that going forward it is very important that this governing body make greater efforts to communicate to all the communities, those folks that cannot make it to these meetings, to have access closer to home and allow them to ask more questions. Mr. Trujillo stated that part of our core beliefs is to celebrate the excellence in our district and we do that by bringing our children here to perform and tonight recognizing the excellent teachers. Mr. Trujillo stated that there is another level of communication that sometimes falls through the cracks and that is what is going on in our local government and he doesn't know if the community is aware of all the things that are going on, as an example there were vicious attacks and allegations that were politically motivated and played

out in the local newspapers and there was a lot of damage done to the reputation of the institute that is the Elizabeth Board of Education and to all the professionals that call Elizabeth their home and that is an unfortunate fact. Mr. Trujillo stated that this Board has an obligation to communicate to the public our side of the story and show them what is really going on and cut through all these layers. Mr. Trujillo stated that education is such a big part not only to our children's lives but what we do as adults, that we make a lot of decisions based on where our children go to school and often it is the difference between raising a family in Elizabeth as many of us have chosen to or moving somewhere else and it has a great impact on the community. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is important that we maintain the trust of the community and we cannot succeed without the partnership that is the community at large. Mr. Trujillo stated that not everyone uses the schools but everyone benefits from having good schools in their town. Mr. Trujillo stated that they need to know that there is a political element that does not agree with what this governing body is doing and will go to great lengths to dismantle and discredit it. Mr. Trujillo stated that this will give the public better access and focus on what our message is and on their concerns. Mr. Trujillo stated that we want the public to voice their concerns, we want to answer the questions, we want to reach out to this community and bring them back to all the success we are having here in Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is crucial that we are doing this and we are starting with three and perhaps we will do more and address other issues. Mr. Trujillo stated that recently he saw a video where the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth is not in favor of what we are doing on the high school level and does not like the academy setting. Mr. Trujillo stated that we need to tell the public that we are having great success at the high school, we know there is a lot of work to be done and we understand that but to throw that all away and start dividing children just for politics is a very dangerous game. Mr. Trujillo stated that the public needs to be aware of these things and there are some who are going to disagree with what we do, that we can't run from those people but need to reach out and listen and these town hall meetings are going to allow us to do that. Mr. Trujillo encouraged his colleagues to support this and participate and hope that there is great representation from this Board because we are the face of this school district.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo,
Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Munn requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, E.K., E.F., C.S., D.A., R.B., T.B., R.C., J.S., reorganization, update of indemnification, QSAC appeal, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results, and workers' compensation claims, specifically, P.C., E.C., L.F., and M.C. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Donoso, to go into private session at 9:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo,
Mrs. Munn – 7

Negative: None

Mr. DaSilva excused himself from the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public at 10:55 p.m. to continue with the meeting and take formal action.

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Mrs. Munn 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.”

Mrs. Munn called upon the first public participant, Jose Rodriguez, to address the Board.

Jose Rodriguez, 618 Jackson Avenue, congratulated the teachers and the basketball team. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the results of the HSPA depend on what school you attend, that 95% passed in the Upper Academy with good teachers and good leadership but it is not like that in the other schools. Mr. Rodriguez asked the Board of Education to put more attention to the bottom half and stated that every student can learn.

Mrs. Munn thanked him for his comments.

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

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Mrs. Munn – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Mrs. Munn – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Description

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Mrs. Munn – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo returned to the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – E.F.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – E.K.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – C.S.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Termination – D.A.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Confidential Settlement Agreement – R.B., T.B., R.C., J.S.

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. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim File No. 2009-31142 – M.C.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim File No. 2006-34652 – L.F.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs.

Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim File No. 2005-2614 – L.F.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs.

Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim File No. 2002-17258 – L.F.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs.

Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim File No. 2011-16032 – E.C.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs.

Munn – 6

Negative: None

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

A motion was made by Mr. González, seconded by Mr. Donoso, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs.

Munn – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Authorization to Attend Center for Reform of School Systems Training

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Mrs. Munn – 5

Abstain: Mr. Trujillo – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo commented that while on break he looked at the video that he referred to earlier where the Mayor of the City of Elizabeth stood in front of a group at the Cuban Club and addressed some of his concerns and opinions about what is going on in the Elizabeth high schools. Mr. Trujillo stated that after he heard some of Mr. Rodriguez's comments he couldn't help but link them together, that there is some concern here where they are trying to paint a picture that we are creating two communities and that he hears the term "the haves and the have nots" and the last time he checked in the City of Elizabeth there aren't two communities, there are choices. Mr. Trujillo commented that he finds it funny that the Mayor who decides by his own personal choice and right to send his child to a district outside of Elizabeth to a private school and that he has that choice for his child but the Mayor would like our children not to have that choice. Mr. Trujillo stated that if you went to Elizabeth High School, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy or the other high schools, he doesn't think you would find children of privilege and that you won't see wealthy parents sending their kids here. Mr. Trujillo stated that you will see a wide range of children from all over our City, different backgrounds, different educational levels and the only common theme they have is the school and the parents' commitment to that school community. Mr. Trujillo stated that these are people who are involved in their child's education and by choice applied to the institutions, that he doesn't think you will see them at any advantage at all except that they have earned their spot in these schools, that they work hard, and that these are rigorous schools. Mr. Trujillo commented that we pay the Mayor about \$130,000.00 per year and a car and everything else we pay, that he has a good job that he has had for twenty years and probably has become wealthy being the Mayor of this City and that he has a choice. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are here because we are not of privilege, that our privilege is that we love our City and our City has allowed us to serve them. Mr. Trujillo stated that we can reward them by becoming one of the best school districts in the country which is our goal. Mr. Trujillo commented that for the Mayor of this City to say we are creating and failing this whole community, that just isn't true. Mr. Trujillo stated that we have our shortcomings and we understand the challenges are big, and there is a lot of work to be done especially on the high school level. Mr. Trujillo stated that he has been a resident of this City his whole life and remembers when there was an appointed Board that the Mayor controlled and the school district was failing miserably. Mr. Trujillo stated that then we had no choice, that was the school district and the only choice was to move. Mr. Trujillo stated that now with the conditions we are in economically in this City with the quality of life so bad that the school is the only shining thing that is happening. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are not a part of it by choice, that he has reached out to all of them and is on the record as going to City Council and reaching out to them to create some kind of dialogue because the City benefits when both bodies communicate. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is all politics and if they had their way this would be an appointed Board and it would be nine puppets here doing their bidding. Mr. Trujillo stated that the public has to be very conscious and read between the lines, that we have a Mayor that does not support public education in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that now that the Mayor is so involved with education the fact that St. Patrick's High School is closing the Mayor had to get involved with that too by writing the Archbishop a letter. Mr. Trujillo stated that if the Mayor wants to help St. Patrick's then write St. Patrick's a check because they need money to keep the school open, that they don't need the Mayor to pontificate on his own behalf and move forward his own agenda, that this is all election year rhetoric. Mr. Trujillo stated that if the Mayor is interested in working with us, this Board is here, willing and waiting to work, but to come and constantly attack and not propose any new ideas, but they will tell us everything that is wrong. Mr. Trujillo stated that we know what is wrong and we are trying to fix it and we are looking for a partner to help us fix it. Mr. Trujillo stated that they are not giving us any ideas just criticism, and it is all election time rhetoric. Mr. Trujillo commented that the public needs to know if Mayor Bollwage has another term, chances are he is going to support an appointed Board and take the voice away from the people. Mr. Trujillo stated that could be very dangerous to everything we have done here, all the hard work that has gone into this school district to get it to where it is today will be out the window because in their minds it is their way or the highway and public opinion does not matter,

and appointments would be made by political favor simply because they like you and you'll do it their way and you can have a seat on the Board of Education. Mr. Trujillo commented that we went through that for so many years and it was awful. Mr. Trujillo stated that this is the way it should be and the people should have a choice. Mr. Trujillo stated that City officials should get out of the way and either be part of the solution or stop being part of the problem. Mr. Trujillo stated that people want choice, they told us they wanted choice and we created the magnet schools so that children all over the City would have choice, the ability and the chance to go to these schools and benefit from all the things that are happening. Mr. Trujillo stated that here we have the Mayor standing up in front of the Cuban Club talking about "the haves and the have nots" and he is the have, he has twenty years of taxpayer money and has become very wealthy as a politician. Mr. Trujillo stated that the Mayor has done some good and there are things that you can give him credit for but he risked throwing that all away when he attacks this institution for political reasons. Mr. Trujillo stated that we cannot let that happen, we have to speak up, that we cannot sit here in silence while he is going around the City at election time bashing this Board and the work we are doing. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a distraction and that he and the City Council should be concentrating on the issues that really matter to the citizens and let us handle education. Mr. Trujillo stated that if he wants to be partner in the education process we would welcome him. Mr. Trujillo stated that the street crime is through the roof and people are afraid to leave their houses, when it is dark everyone runs home, and on First Street near School No. 28 there are only two working street lights between Elizabeth Avenue and E. Jersey Street and stated that these are quality of life issues and that's what they should be worrying about. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is not getting into the taxes because the people that pay them know it is ridiculous, the services aren't what they used to be, that he knows it is tough times. Mr. Trujillo stated that you could work with us but he will not sit here and allow you to defame all the work we are doing and not offer any solutions, that continue to say that we are creating "the haves and have nots" is absurd and they are out of touch. Mr. Trujillo stated that just reflects that it is probably time for a change in this City and people have to start looking at the ramifications of keep voting the same people in because you will get the same results. Mr. Trujillo stated that if you are not happy with the results maybe it is time you vote for somebody else.

Resolution – Indemnification Litigation

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo commented that there are two more Board meetings for March and asked if one is the Budget Hearing and where it will be held.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the Budget Hearing is March 29, 2012 at the Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Trujillo encouraged everyone at home to participate in the Budget Hearing, that everything we do here at the Board of Education is above board and we want the public to participate in this, that this is your tax dollars and you need to know what is going on and if you are interested please come to the meeting March 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Trujillo invited the Mayor and City Council to come to the Budget Hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Nazco, to send a letter of invitation to the Mayor and City Council for the Budget Hearing.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Donoso, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Donoso, González, Nazco, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 6

Negative: None

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