

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 4-19-12

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

March 29, 2012  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A public hearing on the 2012-2013 Board of Education Proposed Budget was called on March 29, 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 7:50 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a special meeting of the Board of Education pursuant to New Jersey Statutes and the rules adopted by the Board of Education, notice of this meeting was published in the Worrall Community Newspapers, Luso Americano, and Noticiero Hispano on Thursday, March 22, 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 for this March 29, 2012 meeting of the Board of Education. 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.

We are here this evening to hear the public express their views regarding the proposed 2012-2013 budget, in accordance with New Jersey Statute 18A:22-13, and I quote, ‘On the date and at the time and place so fixed, the Board of School Estimate or the Board of Education as the case may be shall hold such public hearing at which time the taxpayers and other interested persons shall have an opportunity to present objections and to be heard with respect to said budget and the amounts of money necessary to be appropriated and the various items and purposes for which the same are to be appropriated for the use of public schools in the district for the ensuing school year.’

Those wishing to speak for or against the budget 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, and telephone number of the person wishing to speak.”

Present: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Absent: Pastor Burgos – 1

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 Hugelmeier, Executive Director of Human Resources/Labor Attorney Karen Murray, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Gonçalves, Comptroller Dr. William Greene and members of the public were in attendance.

Mr. Francisco González gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance  
National Anthem  
Pledge of Ethics  
Core Beliefs and Commitments

Mrs. Munn introduced Superintendent of Schools Pablo Muñoz to present the 2012-2013 Budget.

Mr. Muñoz thanked Board President Munn and welcomed everyone. Mr. Muñoz stated that tonight's presenters will be Comptroller Dr. William Greene and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer

Dr. Greene stated that this 2012-2013 school budget is meeting our mission and will call for no tax increase, no new taxes, 0% change. Dr. Greene stated that for the last two years in a row there has been no tax increase from the Board of Education, that in 2011-2012 there was no tax increase and 2012-2013 there is no tax increase.

Dr. Greene stated our vision that the Elizabeth Public Schools will be one of the best school systems in America and our mission that the Elizabeth Public Schools will provide excellent educational experiences and services to inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care. Dr. Greene stated that our budget is achieving excellence for the taxpayer with no tax increase.

Dr. Greene stated that the 2012-2013 total budget revenue is \$487,804,585. Dr. Greene stated that \$411,446,738. which is 84.3% is coming from State aid, that federal aid is \$16,571,408. which is 3.4%, miscellaneous revenue is \$762,591. which is 0.2%, balance appropriated is \$10,350,525. which is 2.1%, and our local levy general fund remains the same at 10% which is \$48,673,323. Dr. Greene stated that we have no debt service and we have another year with no tax increase. Dr. Greene stated that there is 0% tax increase.

Dr. Greene stated that the 2012-2013 total budget expenditure is \$487,804,585. and 77.3% which is \$376,994,793. is for instruction for our students including \$25,501,425. for regular instruction, \$26,711,937. for support services, \$26,454,483. for special education, \$2,652,647. for co-curricular athletics, \$62,378,271. for state and federal programs, \$232,561,858. for Contribution to Whole School Reform, and \$734,172. for special schools. Dr. Greene stated that the expenditures include \$16,824,135. which is 3.5% for administration which is below the State Regional Limit for Administration, \$46,042,427. which is 9.4% for operation and maintenance of plant, \$47,943,230. which is 9.8% for community services, employee benefits, transportation, and capital outlay. Dr. Greene stated that there is no debt service.

Dr. Greene stated that the 2012-2013 comparative per pupil cost is \$17,673. including \$10,673. for classroom instruction, \$2,731. for support services including attendance, health services, guidance services, child study teams, educational media/library services, and professional development, \$2,526. for operations and maintenance of plant, \$160. for co-curricular athletics and extracurricular activities, \$79. for equipment costs, community services, and special schools, and \$1,504. for administration including central administration, school administration, business services, human resources, and telephone and postage. Dr. Greene stated that the Elizabeth per pupil amount for administration is \$1,504. and is below the State Regional Limit for Administration of \$1,812.

Dr. Greene stated that we are achieving our goals and our fiscal accomplishments include receiving an unqualified independent auditors' opinion which is the highest opinion on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2011 and an unqualified independent auditors' opinion which is the highest opinion on compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to federal and state programs for the year ended June 30, 2011. Dr. Greene stated that the financial portion of the budget

allows us to make our vision and our mission in educating our students. Dr. Greene introduced Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Olga Hugelmeyer stated that this part of the presentation will show how we support excellence starting with our five year Keys to Excellence Strategic Plan 2011-2016. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the 3L's are our guiding principles, love, laser-like focus on teaching and learning and leadership. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that love is a driving force for all that we do, it is the foundation of our Pledge of Ethics, and we have to love what we do, every second, of every minute, of every hour, of every day, of every week, of every month, of every year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the reason we are here must revolve around the love of the school district we work for and the education we provide to every student, in every classroom, everyday. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Board through policy adopted our Pledge of Ethics which states how we wish to be treated and how we treat our students and community.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer highlighted some of the initiatives around the principle of love including that Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy will be incorporated into our successful uniform initiative as well as all new preschoolers and there are 22,573 students wearing uniforms at the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools will continue to partner with the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Union County Crime Stoppers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we conduct refresher training workshops for security personnel including anti-terrorism, gang awareness and prevention, public relations, bomb threats, and chemical, biological, and radiological hazards and the Union County Prosecutor's Office will continue to offer gang awareness to our security department. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we continue to provide a commitment to include capital improvement and school construction projects as an integral part of our vision. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that for the upcoming school year we will fund new classrooms for the second, third and fifth grades at School No. 1, replacing unit ventilators at School No. 5, renovating the media center at School Nos. 1, 7, 12, 16, 31, and 83, installing HVAC in fifteen classrooms at School No. 18, locker room addition at School No. 26, installing ADA elevators at School Nos. 80, 88 and 89, installing ramps at School No. 80, 88, and 89, replacing classroom doors at School No. 80, renovating the art room at School No. 80 Annex, cafeteria renovation at School No. 80, dividing workshop at School No. 82, construction of black box theater at School No. 84, construction of art gallery space at School No. 84, installing ramps at School Nos. 88 and 89, and asbestos abatement. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the total budgeted amount of capital outlay projects is \$6,815,000.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our second L is a laser-like focus on teaching and learning that helps us increase student achievement, eliminates the achievement gap, and prepares students for post-secondary education and high paying employment. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our newest initiatives include the International Baccalaureate (IB) program that aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26 is already part of this prestigious international program and is now expanding to include the middle years program and that Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy is presently in the introductory and application phase for implementing the International Baccalaureate initiative in the Fall 2012. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we coordinate, monitor, and collaborate with technology to improve the on-line fall, spring, and summer tuition program as an incentive for district personnel to increase their knowledge of their profession and support school team members with world-wide 24/7 access to schedule, grade, and attendance data. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we have online registration for gifted and talented grades 2 through 8 program, high school registration, and summer sports clinic. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are in partnership with Twig to provide a comprehensive set of brand new 3 minute films, combining rigorous research with stunning visuals to support inspirational science and math teaching in the

classroom or at home, that we are implementing Check and Connect Student Engagement Intervention Model to promote student engagement with school, reduce dropout and increase school completion at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy, and Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Point of Entry Program for grades 9-12 is for many of the English Language Learners (ELLs) who enter our district and have experienced some kind of interruption in their formal education which has produced a gap in the acquisition of the literacy skills in their native language and as a result the lack of skills has a negative effect on their acquisition of the English language. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Bilingual Magnet is expanding the transitional bilingual program to address student's individual needs and will be expanded from grade 3 through grade 8. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that AVID is a research-based instructional model that encourages students to prepare for and participate in a challenging college preparatory curriculum and is currently at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, Winfield Scott School No. 2, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Benjamin Franklin School No. 13, and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28 and the AVID program will be expanding to Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Leadership Academy and Elizabeth High School.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are continuing our implementation of the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) curriculum in grades 1-5 at Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and adopting three Delta Science Content Readers (Human Body Systems, Plant and Animal Life Cycles, and Observing the Moon) in grades three and four to supplement our curriculum. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are adopting Pasco SPARK data collection systems and probes to be used in all fourth grade classrooms to collect and analyze data and experiments will be incorporated into the FOSS and DSM module activities. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that Vernier LabQuest sensors and probes will be added to support biology, chemistry, physics, physiology, and environmental science instruction and the lab testing equipment allows the students to participate in authentic, interactive science experiments required by the instructional program. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are continuing support for the delivery of intensive literacy interventions to struggling readers/learners in George Washington School No. 1, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5, Toussaint L'Ouverture-Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6, Nicholas M. Butler School No. 23, and Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we will continue our focus on intervention periods utilizing READ 180, Leveled Literacy Intervention, Spell Read, multisensory interventions and strategies based interventions in literacy and continue implementation of the Positive Behavioral Support model as a decision making framework that guides selection, integration and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students district wide. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Stars Program is a tutoring program which allows student athletes the opportunity to receive tutoring in various subjects and disciplines and we have implemented Mental Health Support Teams district-wide to assess student educational support needs. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are expanding Literacy is Essential to Adolescent Development (LEADS) to grade ten, implanting My Access Writing Program for grades 7, 9, 10, and 11, continuing to enhance HSPA/SAT Literacy and Math Strategies Course for grades 11 and 12, and sustaining our Summer Reading Program by providing K-12 students with summer reading books to complete the summer reading assignments.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are enhancing all 6, 7, and 8 grade social studies classrooms with computerized 3D maps including Ancient World through Middle Ages, US History through Civil War and US History after the Civil War. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are implementing Apex Advance Placement Calculus and providing teachers with a digital

curriculum to help prepare students for the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus exam. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that all high schools and middle schools will implement Naviance Succeed which is a platform that helps schools promote college and career readiness through increased collaboration, rigor, and transparency and that each student has a unique plan that maps to individual goals and every school has accountability metrics that allow educators to gauge how prepared their students are for post-secondary success. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are expanding the NJIT Engineering Course offerings at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and pre-college programming to encourage and educate K-12 students to continue on to higher education particularly those who are under-represented in the science, mathematics, engineering and technology professions. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that with the expansion of the Advanced Placement Course offerings the number of AP tests administered increased from 276 in 2005 to 963 in 2011 which is an increase of 249% and the projection is for 1300 in 2012.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Principles of Accounting/Managerial Accounting, Principles of Finance/Applied Finance and Financial Services/Business in a Global Economy courses will be offered at the National Academy Foundation (NAF) Academy of Finance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Web Design and Dream Weaver Certification Program in addition to Computer Systems/A+ Certification courses will be offered at the NAF Academy of Information Technology. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Materials and Processing-Green Construction, Pre-Engineering III, Bio/Environmental and Urban Development, and Manufacturing and Processing Mass Production courses will be offered at NAF Academy for Engineering. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Commercial Foods I, Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, Cooperative Industrial Education/Hospitality and Marketing will be offered at the NAF Academy of Hospitality and Tourism.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue the summer sports camp and the Fall, Spring, and Summer Developmental Sports Clinics for PreK-8 grades. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue implementation of the Saturday enrichment and academic improvement programs including Contagious Curiosity and Saturday Intensification Programs K-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will implement a Saturday Reading Clinic for struggling readers in general education while providing embedded professional development/capacity building to teachers, continue to implement the After School Tutorial Program K-12, Academic Education Program K-8, Arts Institute Program, Character Education Program, summer academic programs including Promotion/Retention, Summer School Remediation 9-12, Summer School Advanced Credit 9-11, Literacy Intervention for Struggling Readers K-3, ESL Enrichment K-8, and PLATO Credit Recovery 9-12, and summer enrichment programs including Contagious Curiosity, Summer Arts Institute, and Ready, Set, Explore.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue professional development for our team members and recruit and contract nationally recognized speakers to develop leadership capacity. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue implementation of Excellent Educators for New Jersey Teacher Evaluation Pilot Grant and continue implementation of the iObservation online system for teacher evaluation web-based performance management system to collect real time data about teacher performance. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that professional development includes training for new administrators and teachers in the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching and use of the online management system, providing Advanced Placement certification training for high school teachers across all content areas, and continued sustainability and support of the PLATO High School Credit Recovery Program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue to provide a comprehensive two week Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning during July and August hosting 80 workshops across all content areas for teachers as well as after school and Saturdays Institute of Teaching and Learning hosting 127 courses across all content areas for teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will continue implementation of the MyLearningPlan.com program for teachers and administrators to monitor their professional development hours and manage the professional development offerings at the school and district

level. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we will continue to provide professional development for Literacy Training for grades 6-10 language arts literacy, special education, bilingual, ESL, and social studies, expand Lenses on Learning training to K-8 administrators, teachers and coaches participating in 8 sessions for mathematics, specifically Algebra.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the achievable results with the Panasonic Foundation include implementing Instructional Rounds, Teaching and Learning Team visits allowing administrators to support schools in strengthening the instructional core, identifying team member needs and to provide professional development, Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching, School level plans, and Assistant Superintendent walk-throughs providing another layer of support, guidance, and evaluation.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that our partnerships include a continued partnership with National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) with Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, a NASA Explorer School, Summit Visual Arts Center of New Jersey that provides high quality arts education and exhibition programs for teachers and students of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy as well as PreK-12 teachers, Princeton Center for Leadership Training for school and instructional leaders to use iObservation and Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching in collaborative professional learning communities. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are enhancing professional development in literacy across the curriculum through district partnerships. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are in partnership with Rutgers University Business for Youth (RUBY) program that offers pre-enrollment courses for high school students who are interested in careers in business. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that another partnership is with Merck Institute for Science Education and the Academy for Leadership in Science Instruction with the goal to build a vision of effective science instruction, deepen teachers' knowledge and develop effective leadership skills to improve science instructional practice, science curriculum and science assessment. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Merck Ciencia Hispanic Scholars Program is a partnership to improve Hispanic student access to higher education and degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are enhancing our professional development in mathematics and science through district partnerships with Kean Math-Science Partnership, NJ Partnership for Excellence in Middle School Mathematics (Rutgers) and Lenses on Learning. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Montclair University Network of Educational Renewal Professional Development Opportunities include Clinical Teacher Programs, Student Teacher Placements, and Teacher Study Groups. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that our partnerships include the Zimmerly Art Gallery of Rutgers K-12, our continued contract with Alternative Education providers to provide alternative middle and high school programs for students who learn better in a non-traditional classroom setting, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra which is the state's largest performing arts organization and provides music education programming, community engagement initiatives and rich concert experiences to Elizabeth students. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we continue our partnership with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), and the Hispanic Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement Role Model Program (HISPA).

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that our third L is for Leadership and that we are committed to creating effective professional learning systems to bolster teacher quality and student achievement. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we currently have 13 cohorts that include both instructional and operational leaders. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that improvement in technology is a key leadership practice. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that in the upcoming school year we will continue to use AlertNow to automatically call parents of absent students within minutes of attendance being taken, increasing the internet bandwidth from 44Mbps to 300Mbps to support emerging technology, developing a vEPS virtual educational program, and implementation of Rethink Autism which is a web-based program for autism assessment, training, curriculum and data tracking. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are piloting the iPad program in the classroom and

designing a strategy to incorporate iPads into the eighth grade curriculum to strengthen LEADS instruction, enhance student technology skills and prepare students for high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are providing updated equipment and laptop carts in our schools to equip students with one-to-one access helping them to learn the latest through software, installing wireless management platform enabling the district to track wireless devices and provide visibility into wireless usage and trends. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing improvements and upgrades to computers and Smartboards in each classroom keeping all components updated for necessary curriculum and technology components. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing to use PowerSchool, our student management system, to access day-to-day activities, absences, tardiness, grades, test scores, assignments, alerts, transportation information, school activities, and schedules.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the construction of the iLeap Centers at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy and the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy will begin in June 2012. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that school construction at Victor Mravlag School No. 21, a neighborhood school, is moving forward and our new Academic High School will have the groundbreaking in May 2012. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that GreenLeap is our environmental initiative and includes designating school green teams, energy savings plan, targeting waste reduction, implementing a recycling program, training and informing staff and students, providing necessary recycling bins and covered units, recycling and energy alternatives in the school curriculum, educating and implementing paper reduction initiatives, informing the community with flyers, publications, and programs, exploring carpooling initiatives, and gardening and composting at the schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing to communicate with the public with our Vision publication, Excellence News, Excellence News Reviews, and AlertNow and you can follow us on Facebook, Youtube, Flickr and EPS email. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our community initiatives include our partnership with the New Jersey State Police for Coat Drive, Read Across America, Top Physical Challenge, Trooper Youth Week, Youth Leadership Safety Program and Child Identification Program.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our accomplishments include our Early Childhood Education program achieving a score of 6.14 using the ECERS-R rating scale. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that academically our school district continues to win accolades with three National Blue Ribbon Schools including in 2006 William F. Halloran School No. 22 @ 31, in 2008 Victor Mravlag School No. 21 @ 31, and most recently in 2011 Terence C. Reilly School No. 7. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in The High School Challenge by the Washington Post Elizabeth High School was ranked No. 2 in New Jersey, No. 28 in the Northeast, and No. 176 in the United States of America. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there were 330 perfect scores on the 2010-2011 NJASK. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that students are taking Algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and our high school graduation standards include 160 credits to graduate which far exceeds the State requirement and sixty hours of community service. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 17 schools were awarded the national 2011 Healthy Schools Program by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation which is a partnership with the William J. Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association and as a result of this effort Elizabeth Public Schools has adopted strict nutritional guidelines in which the sugar, calorie and fat content of all foods served are thoroughly analyzed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2011 the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) declared the Elizabeth Public Schools as a high performing district in Instruction and Program, Operations Management, and Personnel. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that our Instructional Rounds Program was recognized by the Panasonic Foundation with a case study presented in the Strategies publication. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we implemented the Instructional Rounds Program for all district leaders visiting over 132 classrooms across 11 schools and we increased the Instructional Rounds Networks from 2 to 5 for all district and school leaders and started the first teacher-leader network.

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we are honored to receive recognition from notable experts in education and in The Star Ledger of March 28, 2012 a report on the Elizabeth school board notes key successes in our district by Paul Tractenberg, law professor at Rutgers Law School, founder and co-director of the Rutgers-Newark Institute on Education Law and Policy, co-director of the Newark Schools Research Collaborative and founder of the Education Law Center who wrote, “Significant improvements in student achievement scores in language arts and mathematics every year, dramatic increases in the number of students performing at high levels. In Elizabeth’s Perfect Score program, honoring students who achieve a perfect score on a state test, the honorees increased from 12 in 2005 to 330 in 2011. The largest number of elementary schools in any New Jersey school district receiving prestigious U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School awards as ‘Exemplary High Performing Schools’ with all three designated Elizabeth schools having at least 71 percent black or Hispanic students and a large percentage eligible for free lunches. A major restructuring and reconfiguring of elementary and high schools with seven new schools opening (all six middle schools replaced by reconfigured K-8 elementary schools, and Elizabeth High School, one of the nation’s largest with 5,200 students, divided into six schools, each with a distinct academic or career focus). Increasing recognition of a commitment to improving students’ educational opportunities and achievement resulting in collaborations and partnerships with prominent educational and philanthropic organizations and in prestigious awards. These include one from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, cofounded by the AMA and the Clinton Foundation, recognizing 17 Elizabeth schools for transforming themselves into healthier places for students to learn, an extraordinary number for a modest-sized district, as former President Bill Clinton specifically noted.” Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the end of the article in The Star Ledger stated, “Every school district should seek to emulate Elizabeth’s record of accomplishment, improvement and recognition. For a district overwhelmingly populated by poor minority students, it is an extraordinary achievement.”

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools was nationally recognized by The Civil Rights Data Collection, a national data tool that analyzes equity and educational opportunity, that wrote, “Some districts are working hard to get all kids into Algebra early. In Elizabeth, NJ, for example, African-American and Hispanic students represent 89% of students in the district. In Elizabeth, all students take Algebra I by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Hispanic and African-American students represent 92% of the students taking Algebra I in grades 7 or 8, and 92% of those passing Algebra I in grades 7 or 8. Nearly all students who take Algebra I in grades 7 or 8 pass the course (95%).”

Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Board of Education and Central Office Administration believe in an open and transparent budget process, all Board of Education meetings are open to the public and agendas and meeting minutes are available at [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org). Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that copies of the tentative 2012-2013 budget will be on file at the Board of Education Administration building and a copy of the proposed budget will be posted online at the district’s website, [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org).

Mrs. Munn thanked Dr. Greene and Mrs. Hugelmeier for the wonderful presentation.

Mr. González thanked the administration for putting together a great program for our children for the upcoming school year and keeping in mind not only the children but the professional development of our staff, and the upkeep of our facilities. Mr. González stated that there are so many incredible programs that we are offering our children and congratulated everyone for putting this together and for keeping the children first which is what we are here for to provide an excellent education and this is another year that the children will be benefiting from the hard work of our staff.

Mr. DaSilva thanked Dr. Greene and Mrs. Hugelmeyer for a great presentation and commended our staff starting with Superintendent Pablo Muñoz all the way to the staff members who work in our schools on a daily basis not only to teach our children but to guide them in the right direction and thanked them for their hard work. Mr. DaSilva stated that the budget is over \$487,000,000. and the people in the City should look at the budget to see where the funds are being spent. Mr. DaSilva stated that 77% is being spent in the classroom to educate your children and my children, which equates to almost \$377,000,000. out of \$487,000,000. to educate our children and to make sure they get the proper education. Mr. DaSilva stated that before Mr. Muñoz became superintendent we had 11 students with perfect scores and today, five years later, we have 330 students with perfect scores on the state assessments.

Mr. DaSilva stated that the Star Ledger finally wrote a letter that shows what we do here and what our staff members do in our district. Mr. DaSilva stated over the last six months the Star Ledger wrote ridiculous remarks and stories about what the Elizabeth school district does here. Mr. DaSilva stated that the article yesterday stated that we are doing a great job and we are on the right track. Mr. DaSilva stated that we might want to do a couple of more meetings throughout town to show our residents that not only are we educating our children but as a taxpayer there is no increase for next year. Mr. DaSilva stated that for someone who pays high taxes in the City to see our school district moving forward, educating our children and putting them first and there is no tax increase. Mr. DaSilva thanked the taxpayers of the State of New Jersey who realize that Elizabeth is taking the funds and doing what every school district in the State of New Jersey should be doing to educate the children. Mr. DaSilva thanked the district, the leadership on this Board, Superintendent Pablo Muñoz as leader of this district, and staff members in the classrooms, staff in our buildings, technology, central office, and everyone who is involved in this process. Mr. DaSilva stated that over the last eleven years the time he has taken away from his family to be here is well worth it and stated that he is glad to be part of this Board.

Mr. Trujillo thanked the taxpayers in the great State of New Jersey for investing in education in the City of Elizabeth, that 77 cents of every dollar goes into education in the classroom and that says a lot about what they are willing to spend especially in these times where every penny counts. Mr. Trujillo stated that this district was repeatedly attacked in the paper and thanked the author of the letter that appeared in the Star Ledger, Mr. Paul Tractenberg, who is a law professor at Rutgers Law School, founder and co-director of the Rutgers-Newark Institute on Education Law and Policy, co-director of the Newark Schools Research Collaborative, and founder of the Education Law Center. Mr. Trujillo stated that anyone who follows education knows that the Law Center's work on behalf of Abbotts is so important and for him to have the courage to write this really means a lot to us and in all fairness to the Star Ledger to have the where-with-all to actually print it because for a while he did not know where they were getting their stories. Mr. Trujillo stated that to have someone with Mr. Tractenberg's credentials write this is worth mentioning again. Mr. Trujillo quoted Mr. Tractenberg, "Every school district should seek to emulate Elizabeth's record of accomplishment, improvement, and recognition. For a district overwhelmingly populated by poor minority students, it is an extraordinary achievement. Let's congratulate ourselves for being a state where a success story such as Elizabeth's can blossom. Let's trumpet it as a sign that the Abbott model can work – indeed, that it is working. Let's congratulate Elizabeth for demonstrating that hard work, talent and adequate resources can make traditional public schools work. Let's resist the temptation to consign those schools to the scrapheap as we rush to replace them with quick-fix, magic bullet and vogueish education reforms, whether or not the available evidence suggests they will work. We owe it to our children – all of them – to proceed thoughtfully and effectively and, dare I say, thoroughly and efficiently." Mr. Trujillo stated that he couldn't say it better himself, that when you go through what we have gone through in the last six months knowing that as far as we have come in

the last six years and it really makes him happy that someone out there had the courage to write that and the Star Ledger was smart enough to print it.

Mr. Trujillo stated that in our budget presentation you hear the words continue, expand, create and all positive things are happening in the City of Elizabeth. Mr. Trujillo stated that what a difference a year makes, that last year although we were able not to raise taxes we went through some tough times and he doesn't have to tell those who work in the district how hard it was. Mr. Trujillo stated that we were able to recuperate a lot of those people back and he's grateful because he doesn't like to see anyone lose their job. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are a beacon of hope in a country that sometimes these days seems hopeless to many, that we have a bright future and our best days are ahead of us and is really worth celebrating. Mr. Trujillo stated that many of you hear the accomplishments over and over but you can never get tired of hearing it because it is the work of the educators, the parents who commit themselves to their children's education, and the children themselves, that it is their future. Mr. Trujillo stated that his colleague, Mr. DaSilva, has served on this Board and has sacrificed a lot of time, as we all do, from our families because we believe in this, we believe in you and we thank you for believing in us. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is important for the community to continue to be involved, not only the educational community but the community-at-large, and that we support our children in every aspect of their education. Mr. Trujillo stated that it is not just education in the classroom but out of the classroom, that our band is doing well, our sports teams are doing well, they are children and at the end of the day they deserve to have some fun, that it can't all be education in the classroom all day and that there are lessons to be learned in these programs too. Mr. Trujillo stated that he is glad we are able to continue to fund those things as well. Mr. Trujillo stated that together the best days ahead of us are still to come. Mr. Trujillo stated that he hopes this Board will continue to stay committed to the vision that Superintendent Pablo Muñoz has for this district. Mr. Trujillo stated that we all love our children and the children in the City of Elizabeth deserve the best education possible and that means hiring the best people possible to do the job. Mr. Trujillo stated that the taxpayers in the City of Elizabeth should be very happy that they are getting a great education for your children and tax dollars and you won't see an increase at a time when an increase would probably hurt a lot of people. Mr. Trujillo congratulated the Superintendent on all his hard work, the administration, and his colleagues and stated let's continue the progress.

#### Resolution – School Budget for the 2012-2013 School Year

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Munn commented that she is very proud of this district and appreciates all the hard work the entire staff has done. Mrs. Munn stated that she always looks forward to continuing the progress of making sure that our children get the best education not in the State but also in the United States of America.

Mrs. Munn presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for those wishing to speak for or against the budget who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding

officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. The following rules for public participation shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced;
2. No personal attacks on individuals;
3. No vulgar or indecent language;
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting;
5. Speakers should refrain from naming individuals;
6. Comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated.

As a reminder this is not a debate nor an audit but an opportunity for citizens to present objections and to be heard with respect to the budget.”

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

Mr. Trujillo made a motion for an ad hoc committee to be created. Mr. Trujillo stated that the citizens of Elizabeth know that this June is an election year for the position of Mayor in the great City of Elizabeth and that it is a very prominent and powerful position. Mr. Trujillo stated that in his opinion, as a Board member, it is important that this Board vet the candidates or assist the public in vetting the candidates as far as the issue of education to the children in this City is concerned. Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like this committee to be created to start developing a format and a forum where the public and the Board can participate in creating a conference so that the candidates can express their views on education and how it can move forward in partnership with the City.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Donoso, to create an ad hoc committee to create a forum for the candidates for the position of Mayor to express their views on education.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Munn stated that the names of the committee members for the ad hoc committee would be provided at a later date.

Mr. Trujillo made a motion for a second ad hoc committee. Mr. Trujillo stated that there is a proposal to have a parade of excellence here in the City of Elizabeth to showcase all the achievements and all the good things that are happening within the educational community. Mr. Trujillo stated that he would like a committee to be formed for the purpose of providing oversight for the planning, arrangement, coordination and conduction of the parade and to make sure that it all comes together and that the Board has input.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. DaSilva, to create an ad hoc Parade Committee.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Munn stated that the names of the committee members for the ad hoc committee would be provided at a later date.

On a motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Donoso, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. DaSilva, Donoso, González, Nazco, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Munn – 8

Negative: None

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