

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 10, 2017
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Stanley Neron presented the following statement at 7:00 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 The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on August 7, 2017. 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, New Jersey.

“We want to welcome everyone present and our television viewers to this August 10, 2017 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. We also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion may sign in up to the start of the public speaking 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Rodriguez (arr. 7:10 p.m.), Neron – 7

Absent: Mmes. Amin, Barbosa – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Ethics

Mr. Neron welcomed everyone to the agenda planning meeting.

Board President Neron presented the following public participation statement.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in. I shall call individuals to the microphones based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to sixty minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually. The following rules for public participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mr. Neron called upon the first public participant, Ricky Castaneda, to address the Board.

Ricky Castaneda stated that he was speaking on behalf of Christina Moreira about the substitute staffing provider and that she spoke with Jersey City and they no longer use Source4Teachers but use AESOP software for their substitute staffing. Mr. Castaneda stated that Mrs. Moreira invited Lorenzo Richardson, Jersey City Board member to speak about their substitute staffing software AESOP.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments and called upon the next public participant, Lorenzo Richardson, to address the Board.

Lorenzo Richardson, Jersey City Board member, stated that he was speaking on his own behalf and not speaking for the Jersey City Board of Education nor as a representative of the Jersey City Board of Education. Mr. Lorenzo stated that as of 2015 Jersey City has not used Source4Teachers and has been using AESOP software for their substitute staffing.

Mr. Neron thanked him for his comments. Since there were no other public participants signed in to address the Board, Mr. Neron closed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Neron thanked them for their comments regarding substitute teaching. Mr. Neron stated that we are under contract with Source4Teachers. Mr. Neron stated that it is a short-term contract and we are constantly re-evaluating the work that we are doing when it comes to subs. Mr. Neron stated that this Board of Education is extremely concerned with who is in the classroom teaching our children and who is selected to sub. Mr. Neron stated that we are holding everyone accountable to make sure the best is being provided for our students.

Mr. Neron stated that this is an agenda setting meeting. Mr. Neron stated that we will go tab by tab and each Board member may ask questions. Present for the meeting were Director of Plant, Property & Equipment Luis Couto, Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt, Director of Transportation Michael Rijo, Director of Security Matthew Glackin, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Daphne Marchetti, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil, Director of Early Childhood Education Tracy Crosby, Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal, and Purchasing Agent Mario Rodrigues. The Board reviewed the agenda for the August 17, 2017 regular meeting.

Minutes of the Meetings of July 13 and 20, 2017
Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2017

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Personnel Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Supplemental Personnel Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Neron added the Minutes of the Meetings of July 13 and 20, 2017, the Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2017, Personnel Report and Supplemental Personnel Report to the agenda.

Tuition Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

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

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter into Contract, etc.

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the Authorizations Reports.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if all of the students are taking the SAT twice.

Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment Amy Gil explained the SAT and PSAT testing for students.

Mr. Neron added the Tuition Report, Superintendent's Reports for Considerations, Use of Facilities, Supplemental Use of Facilities, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results, and Authorizations Report to the agenda.

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Neron added the Supplemental Authorizations Report to the agenda.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc.

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the report.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about Nuenergen.

Mr. Couto explained the energy consulting services provided by Nuenergen.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about E-Rate.

Chief Information Officer (Technology) Alberto Marsal explained the services provided by Spectrotel, Inc. for E-Rate.

Mr. Kennedy explained the E-Rate process.

Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the report.

Mr. Neron added Finance and Accounting Reports for Authorization to Pay Vouchers, etc. and Transfer of Funds to the agenda.

Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the Award of Contracts Report.

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Rodriguez asked about the preschool providers.

Director of Early Childhood Education Tracy Crosby stated that we are registering students now and currently all in-district seats are full.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a lot of parents wait until the last week of summer and first week of school to register their children.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the renewal contracts with the outside bus vendors.

Director of Transportation Mike Rijo explained.

Mrs. Carvalho asked how many routes we have.

Mr. Rijo stated that there are 250 routes that are staggered for Elizabeth schools not including sports.

Mr. Perreira asked how the new high school start time is going to affect the routes.

Mr. Rijo explained that the drop off will be 15 minutes earlier.

Mr. Neron added the Award of Contracts and Supplemental Award of Contracts to the agenda.

Miscellaneous Communication (none)

Claims List

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Neron added Miscellaneous Communication and Claims List to the agenda.

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Resolution – Approving Renewal of Contract between EBOE and Wakefern Food Corp.

Resolution – Appointment of Custom Computer Specialists – District's VOIP System

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the resolutions.

Mrs. Carvalho asked about the District's VOIP system.

Mr. Marsal explained the upgrades to the service.

Mr. Perreira asked which servers will be upgraded.

Mr. Marsal explained that it is for the main servers.

Mr. Perreira asked if it is for physical hardware.

Mr. Marsal responded yes.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if we can pay unused vacation for a current employee.

Mr. Williams stated that it is for the period of time he was not employed and it is a payout for that period.

Mr. Neron added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Resolution – Union County Educational Services Commission 2017-2018 Nonpublic Security Aid Program

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

Resolution – Approving Annual Extensions of Existing Student Transportation Contracts Qualifying for Renewal – Durham Bus Co., Shore Vans, Inc., J&J Transportation Co., and Villani Bus Co.

Resolution – Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System - U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Cooperative Services Agency

Resolution – Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System - National Joint Powers Alliance Cooperative Services Agency

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the resolutions.

Mr. Neron asked what we are purchasing through the co-ops.

Mr. Kennedy explained that it allows us to participate in the co-op for future purchases.

Mr. Neron added the above resolutions to the agenda.

Resolution – Five Year Curriculum Plan for 2017-2022

Resolution – Curriculum Guides for 2017-2018

Resolution – Programs of Study for 2017-2018

Resolution – Textbooks for 2017-2018

Mr. Neron asked if there were any questions on the resolutions.

Mr. Neron asked about the curriculum of inclusion.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained the program and stated that Mr. Taylor, a former teacher, will be consulted to work with the program. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a full report will be provided.

Mr. Neron added the above resolutions to the agenda.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, reorganization, increment withholding, reassignment D.J., and reinstatement J.T.; legal, settlement agreements C.S., C.M., C.B., S.V., and workers' compensation claims, specifically, P.A., J.B., J.O., D.G., D.R., and D.V. The Board will reconvene in public to add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to go into private session at 7:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Nina, Perreira, Rodriguez, Neron – 7

Negative: None

Mr. Nina excused himself from the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Neron excused himself from the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to reconvene in public session at 10:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Perreira, Rodriguez – 5

Negative: None

Vice President Maria Carvalho stated that Board President Stanley Neron excused himself from the meeting due to a family emergency.

Mrs. Carvalho amended the private session statement to include personnel, specifically, fitness for duty exam, update on tenure matters, C.W., C.M., B.B.P., increment withholding, and legal matters, specifically establishment of education foundation and amending the school uniform policy.

Mrs. Carvalho added the following to the agenda:

Resolution – Fitness for Duty Exam – N.G.

Resolution – 2018-2019 Increment Withholding

Resolution – Amend Student Uniform Policy

Resolution – Reorganization

Resolution – Reassignment – D.J.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – C.S.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim 2014-14499 – D.G.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim 2014-26274 – D.R.

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim 2014-34955 – D.V.

Resolution – Reorganization – Job Description

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Perreira, Rodriguez – 5

Negative: None

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