

APPROVED
Bd. Mtg. 9-14-17

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 17, 2017
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 17, 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 6:55 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 14, 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 to our television viewers to this August 17, 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 this public portion may sign in up to the start of the public speaking portion 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. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Absent: Mrs. Amin, Messrs. Nina, Perreira – 3

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., 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
National Anthem
Pledge of Ethics

Mr. Neron stated that we are celebrating diversity in the City of Elizabeth and tonight we are honoring the cultures of Ecuador and India.

The Ecuadorian National Anthem was played.
The Indian National Anthem was played.

Mr. Neron introduced a dancer from the Kawsay Andina Dance Group who performed a dance to *El Baile de Las Flores*, author unknown. Mr. Neron thanked him for a wonderful performance.

Mr. Neron recognized Ecuatorianos en New Jersey and President William Sevilla. Mr. Neron invited everyone of Ecuadorian descent to join. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated them and presented President William Sevilla with a certificate of commemoration.

Mr. Neron recognized the Indian Culture Society of New Jersey and Vice President Pandurang Shere. Mr. Neron invited everyone of Indian descent to join. Mr. Neron and Board members congratulated them and presented Vice President Pandurang Shere with a certificate of commemoration.

Pandurang Shere, Vice President of the Indian Culture Society of New Jersey thanked the Board for the honor and stated that since 1996 the Board has helped them so much. Mr. Shere announced that the Indian Culture Society Navratri Festival 2017 will be held at the Dunn Sports Center on September 22, 23, 29, and 30, 2017 and invited everyone to attend.

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, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Patricia Gallante, 750 Grier Avenue, stated that there is no district update on the website for re-districting and the website lacks pertinent information about the schools. Ms. Gallante stated that the new blazers for the newly named J. Christian Bollwage Academy will cost about \$32,000. which could be used for an afterschool program, field trips, tutors, or supplies.

Mr. Neron thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Joe Cortico, to address the Board.

Joe Cortico, EEA President, stated that we are celebrating Ecuador and India tonight and this is a diverse school system. Mr. Cortico stated that we are celebrating the high schools which are ranked nationwide and the teachers and support staff in our district who work very hard. Mr. Cortico stated that the contract was settled which is good for morale and a lot of grievances were settled. Mr. Cortico stated that now they have to focus on the social workers who are overworked and the special needs students.

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

Salaam Ismial, 513 Richmond Street, United Youth Council, congratulated the Ecuadorian and Indian cultures. Mr. Ismial spoke about the events that happened recently in Charlottesville, Virginia. Mr. Ismial thanked the Board for hosting the youth summit that was attended by 65 youths with workshops. Mr. Ismial spoke about the curriculum of inclusion and gun violence awareness. Mr. Ismial stated that Board members have not come to the events.

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. Rodriguez excused himself from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Neron stated that he is very proud to be part of this City, part of this Board, and part of a beautiful mosaic of people and cultures that reflects what we represent here in our country which is diversity. Mr. Neron stated that recently there were some disturbing events that took place in Virginia. Mr. Neron stated that he speaks for the Board and this Board of Education stands against hate, we stand against bigotry, we stand against racism, we stand against violence, and we stand against those who are not tolerant to other cultures. Mr. Neron stated that we have a great responsibility as educators in our school system to educate our children and to make sure the information we are giving our children is the truth to empower them and help them to grow.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the minutes of the meetings of July 13 and 20, 2017 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Mr. Neron – 4

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2017

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Personnel Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Supplemental Personnel Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for a motion to approve the following:

Superintendent's Report – Considerations

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities with Fees

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities), Miss Goncalves, Mr. Neron (abstain- Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities request from City of Elizabeth, Department of Health and Human Services) – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Neron introduced Peter Vosseler, Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC/Affirmative Action/Guidance who presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results.

Mr. Vosseler stated that according to Board Policy 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and New Jersey Statute 18A:37 the results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next Board meeting following completion of each investigation and include any services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action that was taken or recommended. Mr. Vosseler stated that since our last Board meeting there has been 1 new case. Mr. Vosseler stated that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after Board members receive the report of HIB investigations, the statute requires that the Board issue a decision in writing to affirm, reject, or modify the Superintendent's decision pertaining to the cases that were reported to the Board members at the last meeting.

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

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for a motion to approve the following:

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for a motion to approve the following:
Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers
Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5
Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for a motion to approve the following:
Award of Contracts
Supplemental Award of Contracts
Miscellaneous Communication - None

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, that the reports be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5
Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez returned to the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Claims List

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves,
Mr. Neron – 5
Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1
Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for a motion to approve the following:
Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Resolution – Approving Renewal of Contract for Wakefern Food Corp.
Resolution – Appointing Custom Computer Specialists - District's VOIP Communication System
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 for Durham Bus Co., Shore Vans, Inc., J&J Transportation Co., 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
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

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the above resolutions be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- Resolution- Payment for Unused Vacation Days), Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez (abstain- Resolution- Payment for Unused Vacation Days), Neron (abstain- Resolution- Payment for Unused Vacation Days) – 5

Negative: None

Resolution – Fitness for Duty Exam – N.G.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, supplemental personnel report, interviews, increment withholding; authorization for comprehensive equity plan; and legal, specifically, settlement agreement C.M., revised policy for school uniforms. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to go into private session at 8:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Neron – 6

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to reconvene in public session at 11:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Neron – 6

Negative: None

Mr. Neron asked for a motion to approve the following:

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 – Job Description – Family and Community Outreach Coordinator

Resolution – Appointing Metuchen Center, Inc.; BSN Sports, LLC; Henry Schein, Inc.; Triple Crown Sports, Inc.; All American Sports Corp. d/b/a Riddell All American; and MFAC, LLC for Fall Athletics

Resolution – Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical 9th Grade @ Charles Harris Academy

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

2nd Supplemental Personnel Report – Retirements, etc.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Gina Dalton

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 5

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Samuel Etienne

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Alina Stewart

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – John Byrne

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Michael Robel

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Vice Principal – Danny Ortiz

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointment of Coordinator of Buildings and Properties – Antonino Arcieri

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Reorganization – Personnel Actions

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – 2018-2019 Increment and Salary Adjustment Withholding

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- A.D.), Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Authorization Report – Comprehensive Equity Plan

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement Agreement and Release – C.M.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – Administrative Leave with pay effective September 1, 2017 – M.C.

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

Resolution – New Exhibit File Code 5132 Student Uniform

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Perreira, Rodriguez, Neron – 6

Negative: None

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