

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

September 20, 2018
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education was called to immediately follow the agenda meeting on September 20, 2018 in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board Vice President Jose Rodriguez presented the following statement at 8:21 p.m. since the agenda meeting was held prior to the business meeting.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regular business 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 September 7, 2018. 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 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 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: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Jacobs,
Rodriguez – 5

Absent: Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Messrs. Neron, Nina, Mrs. Carvalho – 4

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Investigative Results. Mrs. Hugelmeyer 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. Mrs. Hugelmeyer 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 (HIB) Investigative Report

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to accept the report.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Jacobs,

Rodriguez – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented an update of the EPS Promise Goals. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that there are three Promise Goals in the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the first goal is that by 2020 100% of EPS graduates will meet the requirements to enter a 2 or 4-year college, a technical school, or service to our nation and/or will hold a license or certificate enabling them to enter the workforce. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the progress that we are making in achieving this goal in terms of our high schools as a district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that 913 students from the graduating class of 2018 were accepted to college which is 67.3%, 48 students went on to a technical school which is 3.5%, 34 students pursued military which is 2.5%, 153 students upon graduation entered the workforce which is 11.3%, and 208 students were undecided/gap year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a gap year is a yearlong break between high school, college, or work and includes students who may not have gone immediately to college and may have entered later in the year or in the second year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in comparison to last year we had 56% that went immediately to college and an additional 8% that went later in the year or in the second year.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the second promise goal is that by 2020 90% of EPS graduates will enroll in at least one advanced placement course and maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher throughout high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing that as a district 67.3% of students in the graduating class of 2018 enrolled in at least one advanced placement course and the breakdown of each high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that as a district 45.3% of our students had a GPA of at least 3.0 and the average GPA was 2.914 and the breakdown by each individual high school. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that compared to 2017 this shows that our students are taking advantage of enrolling in additional advanced placement courses and their performance is reflected in their GPA.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the third promise goal is that by 2020 90% of EPS students will graduate on time. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she is excited to announce that as a district the Class of 2018 achieved 82% graduation rate which is the highest in the history of Elizabeth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides showing the breakdown of each high school and the four-year district graduation rate from 2011 through 2018. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this shows a significant improvement with a 21.1% increase in the graduation rate. Mrs. Hugelmeyer offered sincere congratulations and thanked everyone including team members, administration at our high schools, and our instructional supervisors that support each and every day in our classrooms.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides showing the intervention strategies that correspond to the statewide assessment data and the ability to continue to support our students so they can continue to outperform. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained a PowerPoint slide showing the English language arts/literacy combined grades 3 through 11 comparison from 2015 through 2018. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the growth in all groups was considerable ranging from 22% to 118% and that the lowest performing populations have had the greatest percentage of growth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that in 2018 for the first time the Department of Education showed the performance for English language learners (ELLs) and from the non-ELLs and this will continue to be monitored over subsequent years.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the English language arts interventions include Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) for K-3 in 14 elementary schools; multicultural/diverse and authentic texts for read-alouds, guided reading, and classroom libraries at various reading levels that are

theme-aligned; resources like Newsela, CommonLit, and AVID embedded in curricula to access articles at various reading levels; focus on improving writing skills utilizing strategies and online programs, such as MyAccess for grades 3-11; district-wide professional development on reading and writing strategies for grades K-12; and multi-sensory reading program for at-risk students in grades K-3. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new this year is CLI training for district coaches on content focused coaching. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the English language arts interventions for English language learners (ELLs) include transitional bilingual program implemented to prepare students for a general education setting; alignment to the general education ELA curriculum and benchmark assessments in both bilingual English language arts and ESL; and 15 hour sheltered instruction training for general education content area teachers based on understanding ELLs and instructional practices applicable to content areas. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new this year is sheltered instruction training to all instructional coaches and instructional staff in the division of Special Services. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the English language arts interventions for students with disabilities include utilization of reading assessment and development of targeted goals in all grade levels for in-class support and learning language disability English programs; implementing Souday reading and abridged literature per general education curriculum in LLD English and in all programs to increase reading fluency; providing professional development to in-class support teachers on interventions in areas of weakness according to item analysis on benchmark assessment; and utilization of reading and language arts assessment in LLD classes and continuing to conduct detailed review of self-contained teacher lesson plans to ensure instruction is addressing skill level needs as per data. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new this year is implementation of Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) in 11 self-contained special needs classrooms.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the next area is mathematics and explained a PowerPoint slide showing the mathematics combined grades 3 through 7, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II comparison from 2015 through 2018. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we see the same growth from 2015 through 2018 and the growth ranges from 15% to 35%. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the lowest performing populations have had the greatest percentage of growth. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the mathematics supports for the general education and English language learners include daily routines revised to include reasoning and number sense in early elementary grade levels; utilizing engagement strategies and sheltered instruction strategies; utilizing Moving with Math as an intervention program; utilizing Agile Mind Academic Youth Development strategies in grade 8 as an intervention program; continuing to utilize the online math programs and tools for grades K-12 such as Khan Academy, LearnZillion, MathXL, and IXL; and districtwide professional development on curricular changes, effective engagement strategies, and differentiation. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that new this year are Agile Mind Accelerator for grades 6-7 to focus on pre-algebra skills and Agile Mind Intensified Algebra for grade 8. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the mathematics interventions for students with disabilities include utilizing math assessment in LLD math classes to provide targeted skill level instruction; incorporating Moving with Math and IXL as supplemental intervention programs in LLD math classes; ensuring that in-class support teachers provide interventions in areas of weakness according to item analysis on benchmark assessments; and continuing to conduct detailed review of self-contained teacher lesson plans to ensure instruction is addressing the skill level per the data. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that these are some of the interventions we are using across the board that we feel are yielding positive results, are reflective in our data, helping our students to succeed in high school, and reflective in our high school graduation rate.

Mr. Rodriguez asked the Board members if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Rodriguez commended the Superintendent and her staff on the excellence happening in the Elizabeth Public School system. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we know there is a lot more to do but it is good to see that our efforts, our continued time, and laser-like focus is paying off in dividends.

Board Vice President Jose Rodriguez 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.”

Since there were no public participants signed in to address the Board, Mr. Rodriguez closed this portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Miss Goncalves, to untable the following item and place on the agenda:

Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities request from At Heart’s Length

The motion to untable was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to accept the following:

Minutes of the August 20, 2018 Agenda and Business Meetings

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for the Month of July 2018

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

2nd Supplemental Personnel Report

Tuition Report

Superintendent’s Report – Considerations

Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities

Supplemental Superintendent’s Report – Use of Facilities with fees

Authorizations Report

Supplemental Authorizations Report

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds (which did not receive the required number of votes)

Award of Contracts Report

Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – Memorandum of Understanding between the Elizabeth Board of Education and the City of Elizabeth Police Department for Live Streaming Video

Resolution – Amended Settlement Agreement between EBOE and EEA

Resolution – School Violence Awareness Week

Resolution – Week of Respect

Resolution – Christopher Columbus Day

Resolution – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Resolution – Italian-American Heritage Month

Resolution – National Hispanic Heritage Month

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes
Resolution – Payment for Medical Health Insurance Waiver
Resolution – Burlington County Special Services School District Coordinated Transportation Services for the 2018-2019 School Year
Resolution – Approving Assignment of Contract between the Board of Education and Rapid Armored Corporation
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – Docket No. UNN-L-2770-17 – D.L.
Resolution – Approving Acquisition of Five School Busses and Authorizing Entry into a Five Year Lease/Purchase Agreement with US Bankcorp Government Leasing
Resolution – Revised Policy File Code No. 3542.1 Local Wellness/Nutrition
Resolution – Appointing Eric Armin, Inc. to Provide and Deliver Calculators and Approving Form of Contract
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – EEA Grievance No. 03-12-10 – G.M.
Resolution – Settlement Agreement – EEA Grievance No. 09-11-33 – A.F.

A motion was made by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, that the above be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote (except for the Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds which did not receive the required number of votes):

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa (abstain- Supplemental Authorization Report – D.B.), Ms. Bathelus, Miss Goncalves, Messrs. Jacobs, Rodriguez (abstain- Finance and Accounting Report - Pay Vouchers – Kologi Simitz; Claims List – Kologi Simitz) - 5

Negative: None

On a motion by Miss Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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