

Pending Board Approval

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 18, 2023
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on January 18, at 6 p.m. in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early Childhood Center 130 Trumbull Street, Elizabeth, NJ, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Prior to the start of the official meeting, the Board, Administration, School, and the public audience were treated to performances by students from the Elizabeth School District honoring the memory and legacy of the Reverend Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

“One Wish” was performed by the Fourth and Fifth Grade Choir from William F. Halloran School No. 22

“Greatness Within Us All” written by Ashley Ximena Bustos a student at George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1 was read by the author.

“We March for Equal Rights” an interactive performance of speeches, graphic arts and readings was performed by students from Benjamin Franklin School No. 13

Board President Iliana Chevres welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Chevres called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 6:44 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda/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 January 13, 2023. 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 here and to our television viewers to this January 18, 2023, 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. The presiding officer may interrupt, warn or terminate speaking when talking becomes personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person’s conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

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 must personally sign-in prior to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

Present: Mmes. Barbosa, (Via electronic Link), Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres

Absent: Stanley Neron

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi of Kologi Simitz Law Office, Esq. and members of the community were present.

Mrs. Chevres called for a moment of silence for the passing of Dr Andre Francois retired School Psychologist, Department of Special Services and Edward Dieguez, teacher at the Frances C Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Maria Carvalho.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key, was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member, Jerry Jacobs.

Mrs. Dorgely read a resolution in memory of retired School Psychologist, Department of Social Services, Dr Andre Francois.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana read a resolution in memory of Teacher, Edward Dieguez.

Mrs. Carvalho read a resolution in memory of teacher, Christine Lucia DaSilva,

Superintendent of Schools, Olga Hugelmeyer, introduced John E Dwyer Technology Academy vice- principal Wilnes Jilus to present the student representative to the Board.

Vice- Principal Wilnes Jilus of John E Dwyer Technology Academy introduced senior Orlando David Avila Corea to serve as the student representative to the Board of Education tonight. Mr. Jilus stated that David has been a student leader participating in student government and assuming leadership roles within the National Honor Society, the Mathematics Honor Society and the English Honor Society. In addition to his academic achievements, he has worked part time in his family's rapidly growing trucking business.

Mrs. Chevres and Board members congratulated Mr. Avila Corea on being selected as the student representative to the Board for the January meeting and presented him with a pin and a certificate of commemoration. Mrs. Chevres asked Mr. Kennedy to include student representative in the roll call to have the record reflect Mr. Orlando Avila Corea's attendance this evening.

Board President Mrs. Iliana Chevres read the following public participation statement:

"At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have personally 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 time limit will be strictly enforced, and audio transmission will be terminated at the end of three minutes. 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, 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. The presiding officer may: interrupt, warn or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum; request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting; call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action. As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public."

Mrs. Chevres called upon the first public participant, Professor Lisa Tucker, to address the Board.

Ms. Tucker along with her illustrator, Malik Whitaker, spoke regarding her book about Chessie Dentley Roberts for whom School 30 is named. Ms. Tucker donated one hundred and ten (110) books to the Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy, along with an additional three (3) books to the Board and the Administration.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments and her generous donation.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Maria Medeiros, to address the Board.

Maria Medeiros, spoke about the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Kason Little to address the Board.

Kason Little spoke about the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Desiree Nana to address the Board.

Desiree Nana spoke about the pressure and anxiety caused by grades and swings in GPA's.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Jonathan Yelverton to address the Board.

Mr. Yelverton spoke about the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

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

Board president Mrs. Iliana Chevres asked Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, to provide a Community Update.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that Governor Murphy has proclaimed that January 2023 as School Board Recognition month here in New Jersey. New Jersey's over five thousand, (5,000), School Board Members devote countless hours without remuneration, to the oversight of the School Districts operations including finance, policy, curriculum and staffing. Governor Murphy said in his proclamation that N.J. School Boards endeavor to meet the challenges facing Public Schools and help students attain the education necessary to excel in college and the workplace as well as compete in the global economy. Our school board members take on an incredibly important and impactful role, in addition to their own fulltime jobs, in creating and fostering a culture of Continuous Education in our school district. Mrs. Hugelmeyer also wanted to acknowledge our newly elected Board president, Mrs. Iliana Chevres and Vice President, Mrs. Charlene Dorgerly both of whom, stepped into their new roles this month. We would like to thank our School Board members for their tireless work, their passion for our community and their love for our students, team members, and school families.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer then presented the School Board Appreciation video for the audience.

After the video concluded, Mrs. Hugelmeyer once again thanked all the Board Members for their service. She continued with her community update, commending both Supervisor of Anti-Bullying, Peter Vosseler and Supervisor of Guidance, Anthony DiDonatto on being selected as

two (2) of five (5) educators selected from throughout the United States to lead a panel discussion at Panorama Education's first annual Social, Emotional, Learning (SEL) Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The Panel Discussion led by Mr. Vosseler and Mr. DiDonatto focused on how the Elizabeth Public Schools collects Social/Emotional data and amplifies student and community voices. More than five hundred (500) Panorama employees were motivated to hear the work being done in the Elizabeth Public Schools to simultaneously boost both mental health and emotional well-being which inspires a positive culture change within the learning community. Panorama Education supports fifteen million (15,000,000) students in twenty-five thousand (25,000) schools in Two thousand (2,000) Districts across all fifty (50) states, therefore special congratulations to Mr. Vosseler and Mr. DiDonatto for being able to present the work that is being done in the Elizabeth Public Schools to so many people across the nation.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer continued her remarks by announcing that the Elizabeth Public Schools had been awarded a Five (5) year Mental Health Awareness Training Grant. Mr. Vosseler and Mr. DiDonato in their roles as Supervisor of Anti-Bullying and Supervisor of Guidance respectively applied to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration for a five (5) year grant to support training in Mental Health services. We are grateful to Mr. Vosseler and Mr. DiDonatto for their work in securing this grant and look forward to our district employees being able to avail themselves of this training over the next Five (5) years.

The Superintendent then gave an Assessments Update:

Slide 1 SAT School day – SAT's will be administered on Wednesday March 1, 2023, to all students in Grade 11 as well as those students in Grade 12 who do not have an SAT score.

Per Policy 6146 an SAT score is a graduation Requirement.

Slide 2 ACCESS for ELLs- -English language learners (ELLs) in grades K-12 are required to participate in the ACCESS for ELLs testing each year. The Statewide Administration window is February 2-March 31, 2023.

Slide 3 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) – All Grade 11 students in all High Schools – Administration Dates: March 14 – March 17, 2023

Slide 4 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) – The NJSLA must be administered in ELA, Math and Science between May 5 -May 25th, 2023.

Slide 5 DLM is administered as the alternative to the NJSLA/NJGPA – Students who are administered the DLM are in grades 3-8 plus grade 11 and is available to students with disabilities based on specific guidelines and as identified in their IEP. This assessment has an Administration Window from April 4- May 24, 2023.

Superintendent of Schools Hugelmeyer continued her remarks as she updated the Board on the Start Strong Assessment Program. Over a series of slides, Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that the Start Strong Assessment Fall 2022 assessments produced information that were used as a standards-based complement used by educators in their classrooms to evaluate the needs of

students, these assessments were administered quickly, in person and provided immediate results. However, the Fall Start Strong 2022 assessments do not replace the 2023 NJSLA nor are they considered to be predictors of NJSLA results. In addition, Start Strong assessments provide a data point to support:

- District-level curriculum planning and revisiting prerequisite concepts and skills.

- Evaluating scope and sequence based on distribution of student support needs.

- Provides professional learning supports aligned to principles and practices outlined in the NJDOE Learning Acceleration Guide.

- Using the Individual Student Reports (ISR's) for conversations between teachers and parents as to where a child might need support at the beginning of the school year.

The next series of slides presented by the Superintendent showed Start Strong results in Math, English Language Arts, and Science across grade levels and by population demographics under the headings of More Support Needed, Some Support Needed and Less Support Needed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that there are numerous Support Programs in place that are funded through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERS II) and /or the American Rescue Plan (ARP) . These programs have provided funds or are continuing to financially support school year tutorial programs, the purchases of supplies and materials and summer remedial help and learning enhancements. All these initiatives are provided to continually help our children achieve academic success and personal growth.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer announced that the registration for Early Childhood Lottery will be open from February 22 to March 24, 2023.

The Gifted & Talented Program Application period will be from February 23 to April 1. The Gifted & Talented Information session will be held on February 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at School # 22.

Board President Chevres thanked Superintendent Hugelmeyer for her updates and called upon Student Representative Orlando Avila Corea to give his update.

Good evening, Madame President, Board of Education commissioners, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, assistant superintendents, administrators, and members of the community. I would like to thank you for giving myself and my fellow peers the opportunity to be a student representative for the Elizabeth Board of Education. My name is Orlando Avila, the student representative for John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and I am pleased to be here tonight to discuss the events occurring in our schools as well as our concerns.

I would like to share all the wonderful experiences and events the student body at Dwyer has had this year so far. We began our year with many events such as paint and sit parties, fall pep rally, school dances, several themed school days, FAFSA days, college visits, class trips and Unity Day. We have also begun the process on our AVID National Demonstration School Revalidation, continue to celebrate being a National School of Character and our expansion of our NAF program.

As the representative for this month, I would also like to recognize events that occurred in December before our Christmas break throughout some of the high schools. To begin, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy ended the year with a fantastic Christmas dance, which many students

attended and enjoyed. Both Frank J. Cicarell and John E. Dwyer hosted their cheerful ugly sweater day, making the end of the year special for students and teachers.

Frank J. Cicarell Academy hosted a talent show, one in which many students were able to participate and enjoy. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy hosted a Cologuard performance at the Union County College graduation. And lastly, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy is currently hosting a souper-bowl event, where staff and students will enjoy soups the whole month of January as well as a trivia night. There are four upcoming events this month, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy's unplugged concert as well as a rock concert. John E. Dwyer Technology Academy will be holding a talent show as well as a "No One Eats Alone Day".

Thank you for allowing me to voice the concerns of our student body. I will begin by discussing the below concerns primarily at Dwyer. Dwyer has been experiencing some safety concerns outside of the main complex. For example, in the past few months, there have been accidents outside our school due to reckless drivers. We have had several students that have been hit by cars due to drivers not paying attention to local speed limit and school zone signs. Since the main complex is so large there are many more cars and pedestrians on the roadway. To solve this issue, we request a speed bump, more lines and signs so that drivers know it is a school zone and a crossing guard on Pearl Street by the entrance to Dwyer.

Secondly, Dwyer students are requesting additional security. Although we currently have 11 security guards, we feel that having a few more would be beneficial for the safety of our students. Dwyer has approximately 29 doors and not enough security guards to monitor them all. Due to the many possible outcomes of a student leaving and entering school unsupervised, we request more security personnel to guard the school.

Finally, Dwyer students have a concern regarding staffing levels in guidance. As you know, we are a big school with over 1,350 students. Our school counselors have difficulty meeting with our student population. I have personally had trouble speaking to my own counselor at times, not because it is her fault, but because she is also busy meeting with other student's parents, students or handling crisis situations. We require more social workers as well, being that we have only one social worker presently who is shared between the main building and the annex. Having another social worker will not only help our students but take some pressure off the counselors as well.

Thank you for your time tonight and thank you so much for listening to our student body's concerns.

Mrs. Chevres thanked Mr. Avila for his remarks. She told the audience that she along with Superintendent Hugelmeyer and Assistant Superintendent Rafael Cortes met with Mr. Avila the prior afternoon to hear his concerns and they were impressed with his passion for security and the school community. They and the entire Board will be meeting to exchange ideas and seek solutions to the issues Mr. Avila raised at this meeting.

Mrs. Chevres asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Community Reports.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Ms. Tucker and Mr. Whitaker for their wonderful book on Chessie Dentley Roberts. We really appreciate the donations of the books to the Chessie Dentley Roberts School. He further thanked them for the publicity they generated around the book and the school

named in her honor. Mr. Jacobs also commented on the results of the Start Strong Assessment stating that what we have known on this Board is that the *learning loss* we experienced since the pandemic is real. We have made this a focus of this board and incorporated remediating this loss into our goals for this school year. It is our goal to decrease the number of students who perform poorly on the New Jersey SEL by ten (10) percent. Our Superintendent and administration have put forward an aggressive plan to combat this with before school/ after school, and lunchtime tutoring plus our Saturday morning programs which are included in tonight's agenda. He also thanked the Superintendent and the administration for putting the information in an easy to read and informative format which shows us exactly what our students need in the support categories. Mr. Jacobs stated that the information was presented in a straightforward and to the point which makes it easy to analyze and address the data. He reiterated that everyone on this Board is committed to give the students the tools they need to succeed and that we can come through this post pandemic era with flying colors. In closing Mr. Jacobs commended the Student Representative for raising the concerns that he did especially regarding security and guidance counselor resources. He also expressed gratitude to the Board President and Superintendent for meeting with Mr. Avila the day before so that a clear message was being sent and heard. As we are now in Budget season hopefully, we can find more resources to help fund additional guidance counselors, especially at the high school level,

Board President Iliana Chevres requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel matters, specifically J.C and Job Description, Legal matters specifically settlement agreement N.J.E.A. Workers Compensation matters, specifically M.B. and D,V, . The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mr. Jacobs to go into private session at 7:52 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -8

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mr. Jacobs to go return to public session at 8:36 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -8

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.

Mrs. Chevres asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

Minutes of the Meeting of December 15, 2022
Secretary/Treasurers Report for the Month of November 2022
Personnel Report
Supplemental Personnel Report
Tuition Report
Superintendent's Report – Considerations
Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities
Superintendent's Report – Field Trips
Superintendent's Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigative Report
Authorization Report
Supplemental Authorization Report
Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers
Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds
Award of Contracts Report
Supplemental Award of Contracts Report
Miscellaneous Communication - None
Claims List
 Resolution- Appointing Peters Chemical
 Resolution-National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Co-Op Services (Cisco Telephone Services)
 Resolution- MiCTA Co-Op Services (E-Rate Contract Services Co-Op)
 Resolution-African American Heritage Month
 Resolution-Career and Technical Education Month
 Resolution-Children's Dental Health Month
 Resolution-Honoring Harriet Tubman
 Resolution- National School Counseling Week
 Resolution-Appointment of Architects
 Resolution-Appointment of Construction Managers
 Resolution-Appointment of Engineers
 Resolution- Appointment of Environmental Consultants
 Resolution-Appointment of Special Counsel
 Resolution-Memorandum of Agreement – Trade Unions
 Resolution-Memorandum of Agreement – Elizabeth Administrative and Supervisory Council
 Resolution-Appointment of Principal of Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy- John Markowitz
 Resolution-Appointment of Vice Principal of Benjamin Franklin School No. 13 – Lacey Tyler Guzman
 Resolution-Termination of Employment - W.E.

Resolution-Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Resolution-Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
Resolution-Edward Dieguez Remembrance
Resolution-Payment for Unused Sick Days
Resolution-Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Resolution-Dr. Andre Francois Remembrance
Resolution-Settlement Workers Comp – D.V.
Resolution-Settlement Agreement Case Number OAL Docket No.: EDU 10043-2021N

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to adopt the above agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Present: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres (Abstain Award of Contracts (Prevention Links)-8

Negative: None

Mrs. Chevres asked if any Board members have questions or comments. Being none, she asked for a motion to conclude the meeting.

On a motion made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 9.05 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, (Via electronic Link), Carvalho, Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres

Negative: None

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