

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

September 24, 2022
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on September 24, 2022 at 8:30 a.m., in the iLeap Center at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, 123 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 8:55 a.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. 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 sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. 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.

We want to welcome everyone to this September 24, 2022 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: Diane Barbosa, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Jerry Jacobs (arr. 9:20 a.m.), Stanley Neron (arr. 9:05 a.m.), Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Rosa Moreno-Ortega – 7

Absent: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Charlene Bathelus Dorgely – 2

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 present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for Mr. Kennedy to 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.”

Mr. Kennedy stated that no public participants signed in for public speaking.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

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, contracts and legal matters. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 8:58 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Goncalves Pestana, Moreno-Ortega – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to reconvene in public session at 3:00 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 6

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any additional items to add to the agenda.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the following items need to be added to the agenda:

Resolution – Approval of Strategic Plan for 2022-2027

(pending completion of deliverables by a date certain)

Resolution – Adoption of 2022-2023 Board Goals

Resolution – Adoption of 2022-2023 Superintendent Goals

Resolution – Authorization to Register for National School Board Association 2023 Annual Conference

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for a motion and second to accept the above resolutions.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to adopt the above resolutions.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 6

Negative: None

On a motion by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 6

Negative: None

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