

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 9-22-22

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

August 25, 2022  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on August 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy, 50 Morrell Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 6:45 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 August 18, 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, New Jersey.

We want to welcome everyone present here and to our television viewers to this August 25, 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 (arr. 7:05 p.m.), Charlene Bathelus Dorgely (arr. 7:05 p.m. via online platform), Jerry Jacobs, Stanley Neron, Rosa Moreno-Ortega – 7

Absent: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana – 2

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch-Johnson, Chief of Operations Francisco Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, and members of the community were present.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for a moment of silence for the passing of retired secretary Tanya Holmes-Staggers, retired guidance counselor Pilar Fiano, and a student at Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25.

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Pledge of Ethics

Board member Stanley Neron read a resolution in memory of Tanya Holmes-Staggers, retired secretary at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy.

Board member Maria Carvalho read a resolution in memory of Pilar Fiano, retired guidance counselor at Nicholas S. LaCorte - Peterstown School No. 3.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer honored Director of Curriculum and Instruction Aaron Goldblatt who is retiring after 38 years of dedicated service to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mrs. Hugelmeyer and Board members congratulated Aaron Goldblatt and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for Board member Jerry Jacobs, Chairperson of Negotiations Committee, to present an update.

Mr. Jacobs, Chairperson of Negotiations Committee, stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools collective bargaining unit agreements with the Elizabeth Education Association expired June 30, 2022. Mr. Jacobs stated that these employees will remain covered under terms of the expired contract with the reversion to the full individual health contribution level as required by the Chapter 78 law. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district and the EEA engaged in seven negotiation sessions in order to reach agreements that recognized the interest of team members, students, taxpayers, and the community. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district was guided by its goals to create a contract that is fair to all team members, taxpayers, the district, and the community. Mr. Jacobs stated that during the course of the bargaining process, the district resolved 16 out of 23 proposals presented by the EEA. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district offered a three-year contract with a 3% raise in year 1, a 3.3% raise in year 2, and a 3.4% raise in year 3. Mr. Jacobs stated that this

represents a 10.017% increase compounded over three years. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district also offered to continue to support our team members with deductions to the Chapter 78 rates as it pertains to health benefits with a 10% discount in year 1, 8% discount in year 2, and 5% discount in year 3. Mr. Jacobs stated that sadly, the leadership of the EEA would not even take the district's generous offer to its members to vote on. Mr. Jacobs stated that the New Jersey Department of Education has published the salaries of teachers throughout the State. Mr. Jacobs stated that the Star Ledger and nj.com have published a tool that enables the public to look up the average salary by district. Mr. Jacobs stated that the tool was published on August 1<sup>st</sup> and is available for anyone to use at nj.com. Mr. Jacobs stated that Elizabeth teachers are the highest paid in Union County with the median salary of \$87,434. and nearly \$15,000. more than the statewide median. Mr. Jacobs stated that we are proud to have made such a substantial investment in our district teachers. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is from himself and his colleagues on the Board and the administration because we do value our teachers and our staff. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district had proposed a 10% increase for teachers that would have meant nearly a \$9,000. increase in the median teacher salary. Mr. Jacobs stated that during the course of the bargaining process, the EEA proposed a 7.25% raise in year 1, a 6.75% raise in year 2, and a 6.49% raise in year 3. Mr. Jacobs stated that this represents a 21.92% increase compounded over 3 years. Mr. Jacobs stated that the EEA also proposed a 10% deduction in the Chapter 78 contributions for years 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district declared an impasse on June 29, 2022. Mr. Jacobs stated that a notice of impasse was filed on July 12, 2022. Mr. Jacobs stated that we requested that the association consider and execute the notice so the parties could commence impasse proceedings. Mr. Jacobs stated that to date, the association has not responded to our request. Mr. Jacobs stated that the State of New Jersey Public Employment Relations Committee has since assigned a mediator who has attempted to coordinate a date to meet with the parties. Mr. Jacobs stated that the mediator proposed mediation dates of September 7<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss financial issues with each side. Mr. Jacobs stated that the district has accepted each date and time offered by him. Mr. Jacobs stated that to this point the EEA has not agreed to meet and discuss financial issues. Mr. Jacobs stated that we will continue to keep you updated as circumstances permit. Mr. Jacobs stated that he would like to emphasize that this Board has been very visual and interested in this process in trying to negotiate a fair contract for our teachers and our staff. Mr. Jacobs stated that we do value our teachers and our staff. Mr. Jacobs stated that the fact that the EEA has not come forth with good faith negotiations with the offers that we have put on the table, which our percentages are in line with every other district in the state, just says something about what is going on with the leadership in the EEA. Mr. Jacobs stated that we would like to get past this impasse and start the mediation process and continue negotiations to get this contract resolved.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeier presented the community announcements for August. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we will be conducting a Zoom meeting for our families next week in both English and Spanish so that she can share information as it pertains to the opening of schools for September.

Mrs. Hugelmeier presented PowerPoint slides about the Covid-19 Plan for the 2022-2023 school year and stated that the Elizabeth Public School district actively reviews guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health, the CDC, and the New Jersey Department of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that our district has outlined protocols related to Covid-19 in our schools for the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the plan is based on CDC protocol and as such, the Elizabeth Public School district is planning a school year that is as normal as possible,

with the district focusing on educating students. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we will continue to observe and be responsive to changes. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that we rely on our staff, students, and our families to make safe and thoughtful decisions by monitoring for symptoms and staying home when sick. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide with information on social distancing and masking. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that classrooms and lunchrooms will operate as normal with no formal distancing strategies implemented or enforced. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that students, staff, school visitors, and school volunteers have the choice of wearing a mask. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that students and staff should respect each other regarding individual preference and choice. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that it is strongly recommended that any person who has tested positive for Covid-19 wear a well-fitting mask for five full days after isolating at home for the initial five-days. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that masks will be available at the main office of each school building. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide with information on Covid-19 testing and the protocols to follow if testing is positive. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that Covid-19 testing at home or at a point of care is strongly recommended for all individuals with Covid-19 symptoms regardless of their vaccination status. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that consulting with a doctor is important when symptomatic to rule out other illnesses as well. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide on vaccination, contact tracing, and cleaning and ventilation. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that all students and staff are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccination and are encouraged to get vaccinated. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that contact tracing may be managed by the local health department. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the district will not identify close contacts to positive Covid-19 cases. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that enhanced cleaning and hand hygiene will continue to be strongly encouraged. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that enhanced ventilation strategies will remain in place and hand sanitizer remains located throughout our buildings and classrooms. Mrs. Hugelmeier presented a PowerPoint slide with information on making up classwork and activities. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that students who miss school due to Covid-19 will access and complete all work assigned by their teachers, follow any directions and expectations outlined by their teachers, and connect with the appropriate teacher and staff member when necessary and/or appropriate. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that activities such as athletics, co-curriculars, assemblies, field trips and evening events will continue as normal. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that students absent from school for illness may not participate in extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Hugelmeier presented PowerPoint slides on the free/reduced meals for 2022-2023. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that this is important information and will be included in the Zoom meetings in multiple languages because there is a change to the Breakfast and Lunch Program. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Breakfast and Lunch Programs provides nutritionally balanced meals to thousands of students each day. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the schools had federal flexibilities during Covid-19 so they could serve all students free meals. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the food program the district participated in has expired, so we will not be offering free lunches for all students. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that for the 2022-2023 school year, Elizabeth Public Schools will return to the lunch service program that ran prior to the pandemic. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that school lunch can be purchased daily, or you can set up an account and pay in advance. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the full price for a lunch meal is \$3.00 for grades Pre-K to 8, and \$3.60 for grades 9 through 12. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that breakfast is free to all students. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that the Elizabeth Public Schools offers free or reduced-priced lunches for families with limited resources. Mrs. Hugelmeier stated that families can apply for free or reduced-priced meals online by clicking on the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application. Mrs.

Hugelmeyer stated that the process is easy and fast and is available 24 hours a day and to visit our website for more information.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the Welcome Back letters. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that last month she announced that the Welcome Back letters would be sent out this week and actually, we began sending the letters out last week. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that information for the return of our children to our schools on September 9<sup>th</sup> will also be available on our website at <https://www.epsnj.org/backtoschool>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the new hires of certified staff for the new school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this has been an incredibly busy summer and thanked our directors, supervisors, principals, and vice principals for their hard work. Mrs. Hugelmeyer gave a special thank you to Mr. Cuesta and his staff in our division of human resources. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that since July 1<sup>st</sup> to the present day we have hired 86 teachers, 5 social workers, 1 guidance counselor, 1 school psychologist, and 3 speech and language specialists with more candidates being processed. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked all the administrators for their hard work.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide with information on the PowerSchool Student Schedule. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that she shared this information last month and it bears repeating. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, parents and guardians were able to sign in to access the PowerSchool Student Schedule Accessibility for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents and guardians will be able to monitor their child's attendance and performance along with being able to contact their child's teacher. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we are continuing to strive to have 100% of our parents and guardians using PowerSchool on a regular basis.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides with information for parents and guardians to contact your child's teacher. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that parents and guardians may access their child's teachers via the PowerSchool Parent Portal and shared the steps to send a message to their child's teacher, guidance counselor, social worker, and administrators. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that we will be sharing information on next week's Zoom meeting so that we can begin to transition back to school as we eagerly await the return of our children on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that concluded the community updates for August.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for the presentation.

Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega 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, interviews and appointments. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 7:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely (via online platform), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to reconvene in public session at 8:10 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely (via online platform), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega called for School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to add additional items to the agenda.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the following resolutions will be added to the agenda:

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction – Michael Ojeda

Resolution – Appointment of Principal – Cristina Viegas

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Principal – Mona Wanis

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked for a motion and second to adopt the above resolutions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Chevres, to adopt the resolutions.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely (via online platform), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

The Board members congratulated the newly appointed administrators.

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 called twice upon the first public participant, Reyes Osorio, to address the Board. Reyes Osorio did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Maria Medeiros DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria Medeiros DaRassi, Elizabeth, spoke in support of the teachers and the lack of a fair contract.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Lydia Couch, to address the Board.

Lydia Couch, Elizabeth, spoke about a problem with her child.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, Elizabeth, spoke about special education and against the Twitter message from the Mayor.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board.

Kason Little, Elizabeth, spoke about an incident.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Leonardo Caramazana, to address the Board.

Leonardo Caramazana, EEA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, spoke about problems with contract negotiations and against the Twitter message from the Mayor.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, John Griffin, to address the Board.

John Griffin, EEA President, spoke about the problems with negotiations and against the Mayor's comments.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Jeremiah LaPorte, to address the Board.

Jeremiah LaPorte, Elizabeth, spoke about the lack of a student representative on the Board and the lack of resources for students.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Melanie Rodriguez, to address the Board.

Melanie Rodriguez, Elizabeth, spoke about a problem with her child.

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer requested Assistant Superintendent for Schools Judy Finch Johnson speak with the parent.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the next public participant, Jonathan Yelverton, to address the Board. Jonathan Yelverton did not respond.

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

Board President Rosa Moreno-Ortega 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, reorganization, directors' contract, merit goals; legal matters, specifically, settlements K.J., N.G., T.G., termination J.L., and health benefits contract amendment. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to go into private session at 8:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely (via online platform), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, to reconvene in public session at 11:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely (via online platform), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

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

Mr. Kennedy stated that in addition to the items listed on the index for tonight's meeting, the following items need to be added to the agenda:

Resolution – Reorganization

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – K.J.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – N.G.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement Civil Case 2-18-cv-15728-SDw-SCM CIV-3-8576 - T.G.

The first reading of the following revised policy was done:

6142.10	Policy	Internet Safety and Technology
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The second reading of the following new policy, bylaw and exhibit was done.

6142.11	Policy	Personal Electronic Devices
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9421	Bylaw	Student Representative to the Board of Education
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9421(X)	Exhibit	Non-Voting Student Representative Application Process
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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. Moreno-Ortega asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda:

Minutes of the Meeting of July 27 and August 15, 2022

Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2022

Personnel Report

Supplemental Personnel Report

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Investigative Report

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental Award of Contracts Report

Miscellaneous Communication - None

Claims List

Resolution – Approving Contract for Hewlett Packard for 900 laptops

Resolution – Approving Contract for Janitorial Supplies for 2022-2023

Resolution – Approving Contract for Student Transportation – Nelvi Transit

Resolution – Approving Contract Renewal for District Publications – Royal Printing Services

Resolution – Approving Contract Renewal for Printing and Mailing Service – Royal Printing Services

Resolution – Approving Contract Renewal for Student Transportation – Route 22 Bus, J&J Transportation, Villani Bus Co., and Durham School Bus L.P.

Resolution – Approving Contract for Hewlett Packard for 110 laptops

Resolution – Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Capital Reserve

Resolution – Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Maintenance Reserve

Resolution – Adoption of New Policy, Bylaw, and Exhibit

Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Resolution – Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Resolution – Application for Restoration/Replacement Sealing of Decorative Panels at Dwyer, Halsey, and Dunn Sports Center

Resolution – Approving Student Transportation Contract – Shore Vans, Inc.

Resolution – Five Year Curriculum Plan for 2022 - 2027

Resolution – Curriculum Repository Inventory for 2022-2023 School Year

Resolution – Textbooks in Use for 2022-2023 School Year

Resolution – Programs of Study, High School Offerings, High School Strand and Sequence for 2022-2023

Resolution – Appointing Trinitas Children’s Therapy Services to Provide Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Audiology Services

Resolution – Memorandum of Agreement - Directors’ Association for July 2022 – June 2025

Resolution – Appointment of Interim System Analyst I – Daniel Correia

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Systems Administrator for Student Information Systems – Joseph Goldfarb

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Digital Content Manager – Jason Roberts

Resolution – Appointment of Interim System Administrator for Financial Systems – Hector Porto

Resolution – Appointment of Information Technology Coordinator – Donald Sheehy

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Network Administrator – Domingos Fernandes

Resolution – Adoption of New Policy, Bylaw and Exhibit

Resolution – Reorganization

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – K.J.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – N.G.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement Civil Case 2-18-cv-15728-SDW-SCM CIV-3-8576 -T.G.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to adopt the above agenda. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Valenca’s), Carvalho (abstain- Personnel Report – N.A.; Resolution – Settlement Agreement – N.G.), Chevres (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Prevention Links), Bathelus Dorgely (abstain- Resolution – Settlement Agreement – N.G.), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron (abstain- Award of Contracts Report – Prevention Links: Resolution – Settlement Agreement – N.G.), Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked if there were any comments from Board members.

Mr. Jacobs welcomed our children back to school in the next two weeks. Mr. Jacobs stated that we are excited to get our children back in class, back to learning, and back into the regular schedule of things after the pandemic and the things they have been through. Mr. Jacobs stated that he hopes that this will be a great year for all our students and our staff and teachers. Mr. Jacobs stated that his colleagues and he really do appreciate what our teachers and staff do in educating our children here in Elizabeth. Mr. Jacobs stated that this is why we are such a great City and a great community with great schools. Mr. Jacobs wished good luck to all our children.

Mr. Neron thanked Mr. Jacobs for those sentiments. Mr. Neron stated that we need to take a moment and send our prayers to all the families that have lost loved ones during this summer, especially our employees that we have lost. Mr. Neron asked everyone to keep our students in prayer and stated that they have suffered a great deal of trauma and social emotional devastation during the pandemic. Mr. Neron stated that they have lost a lot of loved ones and have been under a lot of pressure. Mr. Neron stated that we need to keep in mind the mental state of our young ones in moving into the opening of this school year. Mr. Neron stated that we need to be mindful of that and be empathetic and be loving to our students here in our district. Mr. Neron stated that we say that we love our schools and we really need to show that through our actions and our words and how we approach every single action that we take towards our children. Mr. Neron stated let’s win and have a great year.

Mrs. Carvalho congratulated the administrators who were appointed tonight. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she is looking forward to working with all of them and she knows that they are going to work hard to make sure this is an amazing school year. Mrs. Carvalho congratulated the Directors’ Association for completing their negotiations and moving forward with the process, sitting down at the table and negotiating with the district. Mrs. Carvalho thanked all of the custodians, everyone from the Division of Plant and Property, the warehouse, IT Department, and everyone who worked diligently all summer to get our schools ready for September. Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone and stated that they appreciate them and what they are doing does not go unnoticed. Mrs. Carvalho thanked everyone who has worked all summer to get ready for September.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked them for their comments.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Vice President Iliana Chevres who led the Board during her time in Colombia, South America with her Fulbright Program. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega stated that she really appreciates our Vice President and her Board family to support this project.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked everyone and stated that they are so excited waiting for our children and God bless us.

On a motion made by Mr. Neron, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely (via online platform), Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 7

Negative: None

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