

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

August 15, 2022  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. using a virtual online platform.

Board Vice President Iliana Chevres called on School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following statement at 5:05 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. 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 August 11, 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.

There will be an online public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must register online up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form states the name, email, and phone number of the person who wants to comment. Members of the public who prefer not to or do not have the means to participate using the online platform may continue to participate by emailing statements relative to agenda items and/or educational matters to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org). All statements received will be read into the record during the meeting’s public comment portion. All emails must be submitted and received by the Secretary of the Board up to the start of the meeting and, is always the case, must include the public member’s full name for the record. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. Emails received but not read after the 60 minute duration will be spread in full in the Official Minutes of this meeting.”

Present: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Jerry Jacobs, Rosa Moreno-Ortega – 6

Absent: Diane Barbosa, Stanley Neron, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana – 3

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 community were on the online platform.

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Board Vice President Iliana Chevres requested a motion and second to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution – Approving Contract for Substitute Staffing Services – ESS Northeast, LLC

A motion was made by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to adopt the resolution.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 6

Negative: None

Board Vice President Iliana Chevres called on School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. to read the following public participation statement:

“At this time, the meeting is open for public comment online to those who have registered with the online participation form prior to this session. I shall call individuals to participate 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 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. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.

If the 60 minute public comment period expires before all registered online participants have been called, remaining participants can email their statements to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org) and they will be spread in full in the Official Minutes of this meeting. The Secretary of the Board will read into the record all emails that have been submitted up to the start of the meeting. Each statement submitted by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration.”

Mr. Kennedy stated that he will call upon the participants in the order in which they registered online to speak.

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the first public participant, Kason Little, to address the Board. Kason Little did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy called several times upon the next public participant, Jeremiah LaPorte, to address the Board. Jeremiah LaPorte was unable to respond when called to participate using the online platform. Mr. Kennedy stated that Jeremiah LaPorte may email his comments to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org). and his comments will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.

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

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

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the next public participant, Maria Saavedra, to address the Board. Maria Saavedra was unable to respond when called to participate using the online platform. Mr. Kennedy stated that Maria Saavedra may email her comments to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org). and her comments will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.

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

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

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

Mr. Kennedy called twice upon the next public participant, Manuel Gonzalez-Reyes to address the Board. Manuel Gonzalez-Reyes did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there were no other public participants registered to address the Board. Mr. Kennedy stated that the participants who registered online to speak at this meeting and were not able to respond when individuals were called to participate using the online platform may email their comments to the Secretary of the Board at [kennedha@epsnj.org](mailto:kennedha@epsnj.org). and emails received will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he received one email prior to the start of the meeting. Mr. Kennedy read the email which will be spread in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Kennedy read the following email received from Christina Moreira:  
“Elizabeth Parents and Students Care stands in solidarity with the EEA to win a well-deserved contract. Shame on the Board of Education for creating a hostile environment by pitting the community against our exhausted teachers and staff members with a public letter riddled with disinformation and misinformation.  
Teachers and staff across the country are resigning in mass numbers, including here in Elizabeth. The Board of Education does not value or respect teachers and staff by refusing to give them a fair contract. The Pandemic exacerbated an already exhausted workforce of educators who deserve to be paid what they are worth.  
We, as a community, need to stand alongside our teachers and staff members. We need to push this Board of Education to knock it off with the anti-Union propaganda and respect all of the demands from the EEA.  
Currently, there are 43 certified job openings and 7 non-certified. School is about to reopen in a few weeks. What is the district planning to do to keep the staff we have and prevent further resignations and early retirements?”

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other participants for public speaking and no other emails received, Mrs. Chevres closed this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Chevres asked if any Board members had comments or questions.

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Alcaide-Hernandez, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Alcaide-Hernandez, Carvalho, Chevres, Bathelus Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega – 6

Negative: None

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