

APPROVED  
Bd. Mtg. 8-25-22

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Official)

July 27, 2022  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on July 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy, 50 Morrell Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board Vice President Iliana Chevres welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mrs. Chevres asked Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP, to preside over matters of decorum and provide a brief statement regarding the manner in which the Board conducts its business.

Co-General Counsel Jonathan Williams stated that he is making a brief statement because we were asked previously to confirm that some of the policies previously adopted by this Board with regard to decorum during the public meetings are, in fact, well predicated on law and on court decisions. Mr. Williams stated that we have done that and completed that process. Mr. Williams stated that the Board of Education has the right to conduct its meeting for the purpose of conducting business. Mr. Williams stated that its not a situation where members of the public are allowed to unfetter, disrupt the meeting, or cause problems for the conduct of business. Mr. Williams stated that to the extent that business is interrupted or that other people are interrupted or that Board policies are violated, the Board President has the right to control the meeting under recent decisions by the Supreme Court and has the right to take any step necessary to make sure that decorum is maintained and restored. Mr. Williams stated that, having said all that, we respectfully ask members of the public to refrain from shouting out or causing difficulties in violation of Board policies, to refrain from attacking individuals, and to try and focus on the issues that are before this Board pertaining to education and Board policy.

Mrs. Chevres 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 July 12, 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 July 27, 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: Maria Carvalho, Iliana Chevres, Jerry Jacobs, Stanley Neron, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana (via online platform), Rosa Moreno-Ortega (via online platform) – 6

Absent: Nathalie Alcaide-Hernandez, Diane Barbosa, Charlene Bathelus  
Dorgely – 3

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

Mrs. Chevres called for a moment of silence for the passing of student at Winfield Scott School No. 2 Abdul Quhar Afzali, security guard at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Maurice Pridgen, and retired music teacher Joseph Brady.

Pledge of Allegiance  
National Anthem  
Pledge of Ethics

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer presented the community announcements for July. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the relocation of students at Battin School No. 4 and John E. Dwyer Technology Academy 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Annex. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the former site of Benedictine Academy, located at 840 North Broad Street, will serve as the Joseph Battin School No. 4 Annex and house students in grades K-1. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the former site of elementary school Nicholas Murray Butler School No 23, which is currently the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Annex, located at 501 Union Avenue, will house

the Joseph Battin School No. 4 PreK and students in grades 2 - 8. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Annex will be relocated to St. Anthony's located at 853 Third Avenue.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides on an update of the capital projects. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the capital projects at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy, and Dunn Sports Center include renovation of the Dunn Sports Center gym floor, renovation of the bathrooms, and replacement of student lockers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at Victor Mravlag School No. 21 they will be converting a media center into three classrooms. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy they will be creating a bakery shop for culinary education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the painting projects include the entire building of Winfield Scott School No. 2, stairwells and hallways of Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3, and stairways and hallways of Juan Pablo Duarte-José Julián Martí School No. 28. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the security upgrades include adding security vestibules to the front entrance of more than twelve school facilities as part of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant in partnership with the United States Department of Justice.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented PowerPoint slides about the 2022 World of Summer Programs end dates. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that July 28<sup>th</sup> is the end date for the Summer Arts Institute K-11, ESL Enrichment K-11, Transition Program for ELLs K-1, Mathematics Virtual Tutoring 4-12, and The World of Languages 9-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that July 29<sup>th</sup> is the end date for the Marine Corps JROTC (New Join Orientation 9-12). Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that August 1<sup>st</sup> is the end date for Summer School Remediation 9-12, Summer School Advanced Credit 9-11, and APEX Learning 9-12. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that August 4<sup>th</sup> is the end date for Promotion/Retention K-8, Youth Athletic Program 1-8, and Sports Camps 8-11. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that August 5<sup>th</sup> is the end date for the Rising Kindergarten Literacy Program for Kindergarten, August 8<sup>th</sup> is the end date for the Extended School Year PreK-12, and August 11<sup>th</sup> is the end date for the Special Needs Recreation 1-8.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the Summer High School Graduation and stated that the Summer High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Elizabeth High School Frank J. Cicarell Academy.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about the new school year and stated that the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Welcome Back letters will be sent to the Elizabeth Public Schools learning community. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide showing the PowerSchool login information and stated that on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the PowerSchool Student Schedule Accessibility for 2022-2023 School Year will be available for parents to see their child's schedule and who their teacher will be for the new school year. Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a PowerPoint slide about contacting your student's teacher. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that a question she received from parents was how to contact their child's teachers. Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that parents/guardians may access their child's teachers via the PowerSchool Parent Portal by the following steps: opening a web browser and insert: <https://epsnj.powerschool.com>; type your parent portal username and password; right click over the teacher's name you need to contact and select copy email address; open your desired email program and paste the teacher's email inside the "To" section of your email program; then type your message in the body of the email below and press send; and your message will be sent to the teacher. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that this information along with how to set up an account on PowerSchool will be available on a Zoom training presentation as well as written instructions on the district website [www.epsnj.org](http://www.epsnj.org). Mrs.

Hugelmeyer stated that we continue to strive to have 100% of parents on PowerSchool and being able to communicate with their child's teachers and guidance counselors. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that concluded her community announcements for July.

Mr. Kennedy stated that some late-breaking news from the Director of Food and Nutrition Services Jamie Leavitt is that we were just approved today to run a Grab-n-Go Program similar to what we did during Covid. Mr. Kennedy stated that breakfasts and lunches would be available and the plan is to run those on Mondays and Thursdays at School Nos. 23, 25, 51, and 52 beginning August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that is wonderful news and we will send out communications and post it on our website to let all our families know of the Grab-n-Go Program for the month of August to help our families. Mrs. Hugelmeyer thanked Mr. Kennedy for the fantastic news.

Mrs. Chevres stated that it is wonderful news and thanked Mrs. Hugelmeyer for the presentation.

Mrs. Chevres 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 upon the first public participant, Diana Tabor, to address the Board.

Diana Tabor, Elizabeth, spoke about an incident.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

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

Jeremiah LaPorte, Elizabeth, spoke about an incident.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, LuAnn Breese, to address the Board.

LuAnn Breese, Pt. Pleasant Beach, spoke about hiring qualifications.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

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

Maria Zambujo DaRassi, Elizabeth, thanked the Board for the resolution of a problem with a student and spoke about other problems with students and staff members.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her 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 the negotiation problems with the Board.

Mrs. Chevres 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.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Nick Nicoletta, to address the Board.

Nick Nicoletta, EEA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, spoke about the problems with negotiations and the schedule for the bus drivers.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

Kason Little, Elizabeth, spoke about an incident.

Mrs. Chevres thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Desiree Nana, to address the Board.

Desiree Nana, Elizabeth, spoke about the need for mental health services for students.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next public participant, Justin Pines, to address the Board.

Justin Pines, Elizabeth, spoke about an incident.

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.

Vice President Chevres requested a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of HIB Appeal of S.A.; personnel matters, specifically, petition of appeal, reorganization; legal matters, specifically, settlement agreement K.J., residency ruling, revised and new policies; and workers' compensation matters, specifically A.P., M.P. The Board will reconvene in public and may add to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, to go into private session at 7:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (via online platform) – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana returned to the meeting via online platform at 8:04 p.m.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana excused herself from the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mrs. Carvalho, to reconvene in public session at 11:50 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (via online platform) – 5

Negative: None

Mrs. Chevres 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:

First Reading of New Policies:

6142.11	Policy	Personal Electronic Devices
9421	Bylaw	Student Representative to the Board of Education

- Resolution – Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Elizabeth Administrative and Supervisor Council 3-Year Contract for 2022-2025
- Resolution – Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Trades Retroactively for 2019-2022 and 3-Year Contract for 2022-2025
- Resolution – Settlement Agreement Case Number 21-CV-19545

Mrs. Chevres added the following to the agenda:

- Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2022
- Secretary/Treasurer’s Report for the Month of May 2022
- Personnel Report
- Supplemental Personnel Report
- Tuition Report
- Supplemental 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
- 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 – Assignment of Custodian of Records – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.
- Resolution – Deferred Compensation Plan Administrator – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.
- Resolution – Public Agency Compliance Officer – Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.
- Resolution – Assignment of Section 504 Officer – Anthony DiDonato
- Resolution – Assignment of Affirmative Action Officer – Samuel Etienne
- Resolution – India’s Independence Day
- Resolution – Requisition for Taxes
- Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days
- Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days
- Resolution – U.C.E.S.C. NonPublic Nursing Services Agreement 2022-2023 School Year
- Resolution – Appointment of Homeless Liaison – Vito Mazza
- Resolution – Application to NJDOE for Schematic Plan Review
- Resolution – Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
- Resolution – Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
- Resolution – Approving Addendum to Extend Agreement Between EBOE and Kelly Services, Inc
- Resolution – Appointing Metuchen Center, Inc., BSN Sports, LLC, Triple Crown Sports, Inc., Sportman’s, and M-F Athletic Company, Inc. to Provide Fall Athletic Equipment and Supplies
- Resolution – Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Elizabeth Administrative and Supervisor Council 3-Year Contract for 2022-2025

Resolution – Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Trades Retroactively for 2019-2022 and 3-Year Contract for 2022-2025  
Resolution – Settlement Agreement Case Number 21-CV-19545

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adopt the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Superintendent’s Report – Considerations – J. C.; Resolution – Appointment of Homeless Liaison – V.M.), Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron (abstain- Superintendent’s Report – Considerations – J.C.; Claims List – R.C.); Resolution – Appointment of Homeless Liaison – V.M.), Mrs. Moreno-Ortega (via online platform) – 5

Negative: None

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.

The first reading was done of the following new policies:

6142.11	Policy	Personal Electronic Devices
9421	Bylaw	Student Representative to the Board of Education

Mrs. Chevres asked if there were any comments from Board members.

On a motion made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Neron, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Messrs. Jacobs, Neron, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega (via online platform) – 5

Negative: None

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