

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

March 18, 2024
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The members of the Board of Education met in a Special Meeting on March 18th, 2024.

Board President Charlene Dorgely read the following statement at 5:08 p.m.
“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. 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 using an on-line platform was sent to The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on March 14, 2024. 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.

“There will be an on-line public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must register on-line up to the start of the meeting so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The public participation form states the name and email 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 on-line 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. 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, as is always the case, they 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 read in full in the Official Board Minutes of this meeting.”

Present: Mmes. Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely – 8

Absent: Mrs. Barbosa

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi Esq. of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

Mrs. Dorgely led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Dorgely read the following public participation statement. Citizens may address the Board.

“At this time, the meeting is open for public comment on-line to those who have registered with the on-line 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 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:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced.
2. No personal attacks on individuals or naming of individuals.
3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Comments will not be debated.

As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Board President Dorgely asked Mr. Kennedy to call upon the Public Participants.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the first participant, Monica Mesa, to address the Board. Ms. Mesa did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next participant, Dexter Roddy, to address the Board. Mr. Roddy did not respond.

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

Mr. Kennedy called upon the next participant, Reuben Gomez, to address the Board. Mr. Gomez did not respond.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there were no emails to be read into the record during the meetings Public Comment Portion.

Since there were no other citizens to address the Board, Mrs. Dorgely declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

A motion was made by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to approve the Adoption of the Tentative Budget for the 2024/2025 School Year.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

On a motion by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mrs. Rivera, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Harold E. Kennedy Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary