

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
(Pending Board Approval)

January 25, 2024  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Charlene Dorgely welcomed everyone to the January 25, 2024, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Dorgely called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 5:38 p.m. Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a combined regular agenda and 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 January 19, 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.

“We want to welcome everyone present here at Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51 and to our television viewers to this January 25, 2024, 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: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, (joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.), Mr. Neron, (joined the meeting at 5:58 p.m.), Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, (joined the meeting at 5:41 p.m.) Mrs. Dorgely -9

Absent: None

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Chief of Operations, Frank Cuesta, Comptroller Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel Heather Ford, and Co-General Counsel Edward Kologi of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

A Moment of Silence was held in memory of Anastasia Ciuia, Retired Custodian, Victor Mravlag School No.21, Virginia Tantow, Teacher- Engineering, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy, Angela Dimaggio, Retired General Worker – Joseph Battin School No.4, Teresa Ann Politano, wife of Pat Politano, Elizabeth Public Schools spokesperson, Teresita Marsal-Avilla, sister of Alberto Marsal, Chief Information Officer, Leonardo Roger Caramazana, father of Leonardo Caramanzana, Vice President of the EEA and Science Teacher School No 15.

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of the Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member, Jerry Jacobs.

The Star-Spangled Banner was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member, Rosa Moreno-Ortega.

Mrs. Dorgely asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present the Student Representative to the Board.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated it was her pleasure to introduce Maria Zavala to the Board for this meeting, she is a senior at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy. Mr. John Markowitz, principal of Maria's school, said Maria is a top ranked student, a member of the National Honor Society, a member of student government and a member of the senior advisory committee. Maria is enrolled in the Cosmetology program at Thomas Edison Career and Technical Academy and her favorite subject is Art. Her teachers describe her as patient, friendly, kind, and ambitious. Her positive attitude is her most outstanding attribute. After graduation she hopes to pursue a Nursing degree. Miss Zavala has applied to Montclair State University, Union College, St Peter's University and Sienna University. It was Mrs. Hugelmeyer's privilege to ask Maria Zavala to join the Board on the dais.

Board President Mrs. Dorgely asked Mr. Kennedy to have the record reflect Ms. Zavala's attendance at tonight's meeting. It was duly noted by Mr. Kennedy.

Mrs. Dorgely read the following statement.

Citizens may address the Board.

“At this time, the Board will hear Public Comments from those who have previously signed in.” Each person will be allotted 3 minutes and may not yield their time to another individual. Comments shall be directed to the Board President, and there will be no dialogue with Board Member of the Administration. The total time for Public Comments will be 60 minutes.

Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies of which were provided next to the sign in sheet), particularly as to decorum. Time limits will be strictly enforced, and there shall be no personal attacks on, or the naming of individuals, or use of vulgar or indecent language. A person may only address the Board once at a single meeting. Comments will not be debated. Any person in violation of the Policy may be warned by the Board President, and their comments terminated. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting by Security or Law Enforcement personnel.”

Mrs. Dorgely called upon the first public participant, Maria Mederios, to address the Board.

Mrs. Mederios spoke about comments made by another individual at a prior meeting.

Mrs. Dorgely thanked her for her comments.

Since there were no other public participants signed up to address the Board, Mrs. Dorgely closed this portion of the meeting.

Board President Charlene Dorgely asked that her fellow Board members join her in the front row of the meeting room so they could watch a presentation. Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer recognized and saluted each Board Member for School Board Recognition month. Our board is comprised of selfless volunteers who spend long hours ensuring that all of our students have the opportunity to learn and grow. As part of School Board Recognition month, Mrs. Hugelmeyer presented a video thanking them for their leadership, dedication and sacrifices they make for our children.

At 6:03 p.m. Mrs. Dorgely called for a five-minute recess.

At 6:07 p.m. Mrs. Dorgely called the meeting back to order.

Mrs. Dorgely made the following remarks in connection with School Board Recognition Month.

“I want to take a moment to express my profound gratitude to the members of the Elizabeth Board of Education, whose unwavering dedication has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape for our community. It is a privilege to serve alongside such exceptional individuals, each of whom has left an amazing mark on my journey.”

“First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Board Member Stan Neron, a true friend and former campaign manager. Stan, as our current Vice President, your exemplary leadership and mentorship have not only guided our youth in Elizabeth but have been a source of inspiration for all. Your wisdom and love for our mission are truly commendable.”

“Moving forward, Board Member Maria Carvalho, my right-hand lady when I assumed the role of presidency in 2016, has consistently demonstrated a heart for the Elizabeth community that knows no bounds. Your tireless efforts to go above and beyond for those in need set a standard of compassion and leadership that we all deeply value.”

“A trailblazer in her own right, Board Member Stephanie Goncalves, now Pestana, made history as the youngest member elected to the Elizabeth Board of Education. Stephanie, your unwavering support and dedication have been a source of strength for the entire team.”

“With gratitude, we acknowledge the presence of Board Member Diane Barbosa, our personal doctor on the team. Diane, your gentle and caring heart, coupled with an admirable love for our students, goes beyond what words can express. Your grace is a guiding light for us all.”

“A resounding voice for advocacy, Board Member Jerry Jacobs stands firm for the causes he believes in. Jerry, your commitment to being a voice for the people is both commendable and inspiring. Your presence adds immeasurable strength to our collective efforts.”

“When questions arise concerning curriculum or assessments, we turn to the expertise of Board Member Rosa Moreno Ortega, a fellow district teacher. Rosa, your willingness to step in and assist, coupled with your genuine kindness, makes you an invaluable asset to our team.”

“Over the past year, I've had the pleasure of serving as Vice President alongside Board Member Iliana Chevres. Iliana, your unwavering advocacy, and fearless truth-speaking for those in need are inspiring. Thank you for your relentless pursuit of justice and equality.”

“Finally, a warm welcome to our newest team member, Board Member Isaias Rivera. Isaias, your enthusiasm, and eagerness to learn injects a fresh perspective into our discussions. Your presence, even in these early stages, has already proven to be a valuable asset to our collective goals.”

“Again, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each Board member. Regardless of the unique roles we play, our shared dream unites us into one cohesive team. Together, we forge ahead with a singular vision, committed to the betterment of our community and the education of the future generations.”

In response, Vice President Stan Neron pointed out that Mrs. Dorgely had left herself out of the tribute. Mr. Neron thanked Mrs. Dorgely for her service and commended her leadership. “Mrs. Dorgely is a true trailblazer and a role model for young women throughout the District”. Mrs. Carvalho also thanked the Board president for taking the time to thank each of her fellow Board members tonight. “I hope you know how much we really appreciate the work you do and the passion you bring to your role.” She stated that this is not an easy job for which Board Members receive no pay. In addition, nine out of ten phone calls are not a thank you for doing a good job, but rather “I have a problem – how can you fix it”. Thank you to Madam President and all my fellow Board Members for what they do for the children of the City of Elizabeth.

Board President Charlene Dorgely asked Mr. John Swisher, a partner with our outside Auditors, Supplee Cooney & Company to present the audit report for the 2022/2023 Academic year. Mr. Swisher informed the Board and the audience that by New Jersey law, every school district must undergo a financial audit each year and the results be reported at a Board of Education Meeting. He also stated that he had met with the Board’s Finance Committee on Wednesday January 24 and informed them of the remarks he was about to give tonight. Mr. Swisher reported that the District’s Financial Statements are fairly stated, and that an unmodified opinion is contained within the report. Mr. Swisher reported that there was one finding and recommendation contained in the Auditor’s Management Report related to Statutorily Calculated allowed excess cash in the Food Services Enterprise Fund. The allowed cash balance on June 30, 2023, exceeded the allowed average of three months of expenditures by approximately \$850,000. It was noted that the balance had been addressed by the Finance Department through one-time purchases of needed Food Service Capital Expenditures. A Corrective Action Plan will need to be adopted by the Board as required by N.J.A.C. 18A:23-5 and publicly reviewed and discussed at a public meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. Swisher noted the balances of Restricted Reserves for Capital and Maintenance which allowed the district to take care of its over 30 plus facilities. Mr. Swisher complimented the Business Dept. and the Accounting Dept for their performance and cooperation in getting the audit completed. He reminded the Board that this was a financial audit not an operational audit which has different parameters, guidelines, and requirements.

Mrs. Dorgely stated her vision for the coming year was community engagement and working together as a team, and each individual Board member will work on a specific initiative this year. The first initiative for the month of January is the launch of a youth mentoring program led by Vice President Stanley Neron. This is a partnership between the Elizabeth Police Department and the Elizabeth Public Schools. Throughout the school year police officers will engage with students helping them develop life skills such as patience, perseverance, and additional social emotional skills.

A video presentation was shown to the audience about the mentoring program, featuring Mr. Neron as well as Police Chief Giacomo Sacco who explained further the need for a mentoring program as well as having young people interact with the Police in a positive manner.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Student Representative, Maria Zavala, to provide a report to the community.

Good evening, Board Commissioners, Superintendent Ms. Hugelmeyer, and community members. I am Maria Zavala, a student at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Academy and one of the student representatives for the Elizabeth Public Schools Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year. The daily life of a TECTA Charger includes positive greetings and support from staff. Thanks to our focus on education and social emotional learning, we have seen positive growth in school culture.

We are continuing our mission to elevate all career and technical programs. This year alone, there have been improvements made to collision repair, cosmetology, and construction technology. A full renovation of our teaching kitchen and tearoom is in progress as well. We have also added two more workshops. Our Ignite Manufacturing program, as well as welcoming back Mr. Andretti who is spearheading the return and reopening of ShopRite Jr. Banners have been put in front of the building displaying our school's name and each CTE workshop we offer. Our auditorium is being renovated and construction is set to begin soon. \

Included in our mission is ensuring our students leave our Academy with industry certifications. Students can earn certifications in cosmetology, automotive technology, collision repair, ShopRite JR., and both culinary arts programs. In addition, just yesterday our cosmetology students got a work-based learning experience where they welcomed senior citizens to their shop and provided them with free services and our students earned hours towards their program completion.

While our Academy has a Career and Technical theme with a deep concentration on career readiness, we are also preparing our students for college. We have landed more opportunities for seniors such as more college tours, bringing college representatives to meet with the seniors, as well as the FAFSA Workshop/Night. We are thankful to our school administration and the EPS Board of Education for these additional opportunities.

We are looking forward to the Clash of the Classes which will be a grade level competition in academic and physical challenges. We have seasonal pep rallies, (Fall, Winter, and Spring) to promote school spirit. We've also expanded the National Honor Society by actively recruiting more students. Moreover, there have been more clubs offered this year. Among the new offerings are STEM, Art, Environmental, Literary, Multicultural and Yearbook.

Currently we are promoting our Black History Month Door initiative in art classes to highlight the accomplishments and achievements of black historical figures.

I am so grateful to be given this amazing opportunity. I want to thank everyone who came to this meeting, especially a big thank you to my mom for if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here representing my school. I also want to thank Ms. Nunez, Ms. Glynn, Ms. Craven, and our principal Mr. Markowitz, for helping me and guiding me through this journey. Thank you for your time.

Before initiating a review of items that were proposed to be on the Agenda for this evening's meeting, Mrs. Dorgely thanked all the Director's in attendance. She commenced a review of the agenda items and instructed the Board members to ask questions regarding specific items.

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (December 13, 2023, and January 3, 2024) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (November 30, 2023) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a, & 2b) Personnel Report/Supplemental Personnel Report Chief of Operations Mr. Francisco Cuesta provided the following summary: We have five (5) retirements, and there were six (6) resignations – 5 certified and 1 non-certified staff member. He was happy to report that we would be seeing twenty-seven (27)

appointments (17) seventeen of which are teachers. There are several transfers due to resignations, retirements, changes in titles and additional students moving into the Special Education portal. Moreover, we have three promotions. Mr. Cuesta stated the best part of his presentation was the fact that seven people will receive salary adjustments as eight (8) people have reached 6-year status or have earned master's level requirements plus one person had completed their Doctorate degree. Board Member Rosa Moreno Ortega wanted to thank the teachers in the district for stepping up to staff the after-school programs, the lunch time tutoring and Saturday programs.

Board Member Mrs. Moreno-Ortega complimented all the teachers and assistants who have stepped up to staff all the before school, lunch time, after school and Saturday programs.

Tab 2a & 2b were added to the Agenda.

Tab 3a) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tabs 4, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d) Superintendent's Reports/ Considerations/Use of Facilities-Considerations/Field Trip Considerations – Dr. Daphne Marchetti, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, requested approval for the District's Mathematics Instructional Coaches and the Mathematics Supervisor to attend a Math Symposium in January, at no cost to the Board. Current topics and issues within the Mathematics world will be discussed. Mr. Luis Milanes, Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment sought authorization for an alarm technician to attend the NJ Electronic Safety Expo in Atlantic City on February 29 and March 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, Mr. Milanes sought approval for Mr. Arcieri and himself to attend the NJSBGA Conference and Expo in Atlantic City in March. Mrs. Hugelmeier spoke on behalf Tracy Cosby, Director of Early Childhood Education, who asked for authorization for two staff members to attend the PESI two-day self-regulation course: Neurological Interventions for Multisensory Integration, Emotional Regulation and Executive Functioning in East Winsor NJ. Superintendent Hugelmeier also spoke about a request from Dr. Sandra Nunes, Director of Bilingual and ESL Education for two Bilingual/ESL Supervisors to attend the NJTESOC/NJBE 2024 Spring Conference in New Brunswick NJ.

Tabs 4, 4a, 4b, 4bb, 4c, and 4d were added to the Agenda.

Tab 5, Authorizations Report- Superintendent Hugelmeier asked Asst. Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes to summarize the Field Trip Requests. Mr. Cortes stated that there are sixty-three (63) Field Trips to be authorized at this meeting, 29 of which were for Grades K-8 while 34 for the high school students. Among the field trips there are three to colleges, fourteen to Performing Arts venues and four to Forensics competitions. Mr. Cortes also mentioned that Liberty Hall Museum had graciously given the district 353 free tickets for fourth graders to participate in the Crown to Country program. Trips will be scheduled to Liberty Hall Museum during the months of February, March, and April.

Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services recommended authorization be given for students from three (3) schools to participate in a Special Olympics Bowling event on January 28<sup>th</sup> in North Brunswick NJ. In response to a question from Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Dr. Ojeda said he expected about 45 students to participate in the Bowling event.

Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Director of Special Projects, sought authorization for the Elizabeth High School Percussion Ensemble to participate in the US Band/WGI show competition for the winter/spring seasons. She also requested approval for the Elizabeth High Winter Guard to participate in three separate competitions. Moreover, approval was sought to both participate in and host the Indoor Network Main Show competitions. She also asked for authorization for the Elizabeth High School choir to participate in a free performance by the "Signature" Barbershop Quartet. This will introduce the students to the harmonies and music style of Barbershop quartets.

Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, requested approval for the School District to enter into the Mentoring Partnership with the Elizabeth Police Dept that was outlined and highlighted in the video presentation earlier in the meeting. Schools 1, 9, 13, 25 & 28 will be the first five schools participating in the initiative.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and learning, Dr Jennifer Ceden, requested approval to accept six donations and highlighted the following donations:

- \$2,000 from the County of Union for the Drama Club at Jefferson Arts Academy as part of the 2023 Union County on Stage School Grant.
- 30 Winter Coats from Acceleration Plus, Edison Nj for students at Joseph Battin School No.4
- 25 Bicycles from Golcanda Temple 24 which will be raffled off for students at School No. 29

Dr. Ceden expressed her thanks and gratitude to all those who make donations to support our schools.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch Johnson, informed the Board that she had 147 Fund Raising Requests that were seeking approval/authorization tonight. Among the fundraisers are Valentines Day and other dances, Build a Bear night, Jerseys over uniforms for the Super Bowl, Zumba and movie nights and a Flapjack breakfast at Applebee's.

Mrs. Moreno Ortega asked for a report on the different types of field trips the District has as well as the schools and grades participating. Mrs. Dorgely asked Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to discuss within the Education Management Committee and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Carvalho asked for the status of the truck that had been authorized to be purchased to support the Band. Mr. Kennedy replied that it is being worked on. Mrs. Carvalho hoped that it could be received in time for the February competition(s). In addition, she asked about funding for these competitions. Dr. McMullen said it was a combination of fund raising and budgeted dollars from the district.

Mrs. Barbosa said she was very happy to see that the Special Needs Soccer Clinic has been approved. She reminded parents and families to look for flyers and other information, coming home in backpacks etc. In regard to Field Trips, she noted that those field trips that are run during school hours transportation is provided by District buses and are paid for by the District. Mrs. Barbosa was also highly appreciative of the Community Based Education Field Trips for Special Needs Students. These types of trips being students to Malls, retail and grocery stores, as well as other stores where students learn life skills that will be imperative in their futures. Mrs. Barbosa wished the Winter Guard the best of luck in their competitions.

Tab 5) Authorizations Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report Mrs. Barbosa asked about Benecard, the Prescription provider for the District. Mr. Kennedy clarified that the Benecard renewal was in in June. Mr. Jacobs asked if we were still receiving a rebate from the program and Mr. Kennedy answered in the affirmative. Mr. Jacobs also inquired about a payment to M&M construction. Mr. Milanes replied this was for the temporary fencing around the old Battin School building. The fence has been moved several times due to illegal dumping, construction debris, and the need for contactors who will be bidding on demolition of the site to access the site.

Mrs. Carvalho inquired about a payment to USA Architects for Vape monitors. Mr. Milanes replied that this payment was for the Design phase of the project. The Designs are for all the High Schools and their respective annexes.

Tab 6) Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 6a) Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 7, 7a) Award of Contracts Report/Supplemental Award of Contracts report.

Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, presented twelve Contracts for approval:

- Gaggle Net Inc.-To provide mental health tele-therapy for general education students conducted by NJ based licensed mental health professionals.
- HISPA, Inc. – To continue a partnership with Hispanics inspiring Hispanics – Role modeling program allows students to visit some of New Jersey’s largest cooperations and meet leaders in the business world giving students a better understanding of the greater world around them.
- Wisdom Spring Wellness Services – Professional Development Services for staff members – Breathing, Relaxing and Resiliency.
- Atlas Search Health Solutions – Substitute nursing services plus nursing services for Field Trips.
- Amend Contract with Homecare Therapies LLC dba Horizon Healthcare -Substitute nursing services and staffing for Field trips.
- Contract with Scoir. Inc – will be the new platform for the college application process for high school students. Access to ‘middle school’ age students as to prepare them for future college ideas.
- Minding Your Mind – provide mental health education Programs for K-12 students.
- VIP Community Services – Keva White CEO to provide in person homeless students and their families.
- HIPSA, Inc – to provide their program “Ready, Set, Goals” to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy.
- Pro Athletes Inc – provide the Bound for Greatness Leadership Program for selected students at ten (10) schools.
- The Stepping Stones Group – provide School Based Social Worker for social worker out on leave.
- Avid Center – professional development training for forty (40) District staff members in a workshop entitled “Building Capacity Training”.
- National Hispanic College Fair Inc -enter into a partnership and provide professional development for counselors, college admission events and one (1) day college tours for students.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega requested that going forward when contracts are proposed that the schools that would be affected/participating in a project be listed. Mrs. Carvalho asked that a more detailed description of items being purchased be added to the requests – i.e. Athletics -list the specific equipment being purchased rather than just a generic “equipment” grand total. Mrs. Carvalho asked whether Minding your Mine was “live’ or online. Mr. Donato replied, it would be live and the program would be advertised and available to all teachers etc.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Dr. Daphne Marchetti, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, to discuss the contracts which she was seeking approval for this evening:

- Institute for Multi-Sensory Education-to provide Orton Gillingham Training focused on developing teachers in grades Pre-K through Fifth grade in areas of reading, spelling, and/or morphology during the summer of 2024.
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H program of Union County- enter into a partnership and provide their school enrichment program “4H Master Tree Stewards” to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- New York Academy of Sciences – to enter into a partnership and launch the Scientist in Residence Program in grades 3-5 at Schools No. 1, 3, and 9.

- Gateway Education Holding LLC dba SAVVAS Learning Company – to provide SuccessMaker Math Licenses to support mathematics instruction through adaptive learning software.
- ETA Hand2Mind – to provide professional services and supplemental materials to teachers in K-2 in the areas of phonemic awareness and phonics.
- Thinkaum – to provide Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) trainings focused on developing curriculum writers and instructional coaches in grades K-8 in the area of evidence – based Practices for teaching writing.
- Deborah R Glaser EdD, LLC dba Morpheme Magic – to provide professional services and supplemental materials in teachers in grades 4-5 in the area of morphological awareness.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer called upon Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Director of Special Projects, to review the contracts her departments sought approval for at this meeting.

- Follett Content Solutions LLC/Julie Kenner – to present a virtual workshop to the Library Media Specialist.
- Evan Sebastiao Henriques – Moving and Tech specialist for 2023-2024 Winter/Spring season of the EHS indoor Percussion Ensemble.
- Daquan Sessoms – Director of the Percussion Ensemble for the Winter/Spring 2023-2024 EHS Percussion Ensemble season.
- ARA Productions, LLC. Aaron R. Alcine, - Aaron Alcine as the Arranger of the Percussion Ensemble for the Winter/Spring 2023-2024 season.
- Manuel Suero, Jr. of Dorian Business Systems Inc., Winter Guard Advisor for the Winter/Spring Season 2023-2024
- Daniela Acosta – as the Color Guard advisor for the Winter 2023-2024 Elizabeth High School Winter Color Guard.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer requested that Luis Milanés, Director of Plant, Property and Equipment speak about the contracts that he is presenting for approval:

- C&M Door Controls – replacement of interior doors at Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy
- Mall Chevrolet – purchase of 3 vehicles for PP&E Supervisory Team.
- Manhattan Welding Company Inc., – replacement of the existing vent breeching component related to the boiler replacement at School. No. 18
- Manhattan Welding Company Inc, - amend contract to provide additional work which includes raising the existing floor 8” and install a French Drainage system which will allow two recently installed boiler burners to operate properly.
- Lilich Corporation – emergency asbestos abatement work in the cooling tower at John E Dwyer Technology Academy and Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., Health & Public Safety Academy.
- Commercial Interiors Direct, Inc. – replacement of the stage curtains at William F. Halsey Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy.
- USA Architects – architectural/engineering services related to a classroom conversion into four small group classrooms at John E Dwyer Technology Academy 2) architectural /engineering services to prepare Egress & Evacuation Plans for various schools within the District.
- Servpro of Central Union County – for the general cleaning of the pool area and duct work within the pool complex at the Dunn Sports Center.
- Northeastern Interior Services, LLC installation of new flooring at the Warehouse annex # 95.

- Murray Paving – replacement of exterior wall panels at the following locations: John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., Health & Public Safety Academy, the Welcome Center, and the Dunn Sports Center
- Lan Architects – to provide architectural/engineering services related to an upgrade of the domestic hot water heating system at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy, and the Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., & Public Safety Academy.
- Peters Chemical Company – to provide calcium chloride ice pellets and rock salt.
- Field Turf USA, Inc – Change order Baseball Field at Williams Field.

Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services, to summarize the contracts he sought to have approved at tonight’s meeting.

- Home Care Therapies LLC dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing – to provide nursing services for a specific special education student that is attending School No. 9
- Amend contract with Northern Region Educational Services Commission – provide two hours daily instruction to two specific special education students placed at the Phoenix Center, Haskell N.J. The previous contract was for only one student.
- Rosalie Pereda of Brilla Learning Academy dba RMP Educational Consulting LLC-to provide individual Spanish Orto Gillian Instruction for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Mountain Lakes Board of Education – a) to provide Psychological, Speech/Language and Educational Evaluation for a specific special education student attending Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes. b) – provide Psychological and Speech Language Evaluation for a specific student attending Bergen County Special Services School – Springboard Program in Paramus. c) - to provide Psychological, Speech/Language and Educational Evaluation for a second specific special education student attending Lake Drive School in Mountain Lakes.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega thanked Dr. Marchetti for presenting her proposed contracts in a style and manner that made it easy for her to understand the scope of the projects, the schools affected and their duration.

Mr. Jacobs questioned the Change Order for Williams field reducing the field length. This was done for safety reasons due to the installation of light stanchions.

Tabs 7, 7a and 7b were added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Dorgely asked Finance Committee Chair, Jerry Jacobs, to present the minutes from the January Finance Committee Meeting.

**Finance Committee Meeting  
January 24, 2024  
12:00p.m. – 12:45p.m.**

**Attendees:** Charlene Bathelus Dorgely, Board President; Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of Finance Committee; Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Member, Stanley Neron Board Member, Edward Kologi, General Counsel, Judge Malone, General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra, Comptroller, Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools

## Agenda

1. Presentation of Audit Results of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023. Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. John Swisher, Engagement partner at Suplee Cooney and Company to present the Independent Auditors Report for the year ended June 30, 2023, inclusive of the Auditor's Management Report. Mr. Swisher reported that the District's Financial Statements are fairly stated, and that an unmodified opinion is contained within the report. Mr. Swisher reported that there was one finding and recommendation contained in the Auditor's Management Report related to Statutorily Calculated allowed excess cash in the Food Services Enterprise Fund. The allowed cash balance as of 2023, exceeded the allowed average of three months of expenditures by approximately \$850,000. It was noted that the balance had been addressed by the Department through one-time purchases of needed Food Service Capital Expenditures. A Corrective Action Plan will be needed to be adopted by the Board as required by N.J.A.C. 18A:23-5 and publicly reviewed and discussed at a public meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. Swisher noted the balances of Restricted Reserves for Capital and Maintenance which allowed the District to take care of its over 30 plus facilities. Mr. Swisher complimented the Business Dept. and Accounting Dept. for their performance and cooperation in getting the audit completed. The Committee asked Mr. Kennedy and Malhotra to also pass their gratitude onto the Departments.

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Dorgely wanted to acknowledge the Resolutions that we would be celebrating in the upcoming month of February:

- Career and Technical Education Month
- Children's Dental Health Month
- Honoring Harriet Tubman
- African American Heritage Month
- National School Counseling Week – February 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>

Resolutions 10 to 10K were added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Dorgely asked for a motion to approve the entire Agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Neron and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to approve the entire Agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Barbosa, (with an abstention on Tab 7 pg. 1 Contract with Valenca Restaurant), Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Chevres (with an abstention on Tab 4a pg. 1 Luis Millanes attendance at NJSBGA conference, Tab 4 b pg. 1 Prevention Links use of Facility, Tab 4b pg.1 Puerto Rican Alliance of Elizabeth use of facility), Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (with an abstention on Tab 4b pg. 1 Prevention Links use of facility), Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, (with an abstention on Tab 5 pg. 7 Donation from Union County). 5, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely (with an abstention on Tab 5 pg. 7 Donation from Union County) -9

Negative: none

Board President, Mrs. Dorgely then asked for a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of:

Personnel, specifically, an Interview,  
Legal matters, specifically, Settlement Agreement D.V. and Department of Labor Matters,  
The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mr. Neron to go into private session at 7:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -9

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho and seconded by Mrs. Barbosa to return to public session at 8:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -9

Negative: none

The following items were added to the Agenda:

Resolution - Settlement agreement with D.V.

Resolution - Appointment of Acting Vice Principal, John E Dwyer Technology Academy, Elliott K. Johnson

A motion was made by Mr. Neron and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to approve the additional Agenda items.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -9

Negative: none

Mrs. Dorgely asked Mrs. Hugelmeyer to present the H.I.B. Report for the month of December.

#### HIB Presentation for the December Board of Education Meeting

1.) Pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, 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 the investigation and include: 1) Any services provided; 2) Training established; 3) Discipline imposed; or 4) Other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator."

2.) Since our last Board of Education meeting on December 13, 2023, and through January 23, 2024, our school counselors, school based social workers and Supervisor of Anti-Bullying have completed 56 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 15 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 29 males, 31 females, 50 regular education students and 10 special education students that were the alleged

victims. There were 50 males, 35 females, 74 regular education students, 10 special education students and 1 non-student that were the alleged offenders. Of the 15 cases Founded for HIB, 1 case was Founded based on Race/National Origin, 1 case was Founded based on Religion, 1 case was Founded based on Gender Identity & Expression, 3 cases were Founded based on a Mental, Physical or Sensory Disability and 15 cases were Founded based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 17 skill development lessons/trainings, 53 counseling sessions, 3 targeted behavioral interventions, 9 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 6 classroom changes, 3 changes of school placement, 4 administrative counseling sessions, 15 in school detentions, 32 parent conferences, 2 referrals to outside agencies, 23 out of school suspensions, and 13 cases are continuing to be monitored.

3.) The HIB statute further requires that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after board members receive the initial report of HIB investigations, that the Board issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent's decision pertaining to the 32 cases that was reported to you at the last Board meeting on December 13, 2023. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations, which were reported to you at the last board meeting, have been provided for your review prior to voting.

Are there any questions?

As there were no questions regarding the H.I.B. Report, Mrs. Dorgely asked if any Board members had any further questions or comments. Being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho, Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Dorgely -9

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary