

BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 13, 2023  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Prior to the start of the regular agenda/business meeting of the Board of Education, which was held on December 13, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center, 600 Pearl Street., Elizabeth, New Jersey, numerous students were recognized for both Academic and Athletic accomplishments.

Students who Achieved Perfect Score on the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA)

- Christopher David Cox, George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1
- Sujana Binte Habib, George Washington Academy of Science and Engineering School No. 1
- Oluwatomilola Catherine Akinyoarde, Winfield Scott School No. 2
- Noelie Nicole Sosa, Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3
- Mia S. Saadeh, Joseph Battin School No.4
- Thais Zoe Rosa, Toussaint Louverture-Marquis De Lafayette School No.6
- Sharmin Akhter, Toussaint Louverture-Marquis De Lafayette School No. 6 (Currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy)
- Joshua Alexis Armstrong, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Daniel Alexander Chico Gonzalez, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Ricardo Jesus Franco Jr., Terence C Reilly School No. 7
- Caroline Sophia Fuentes, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Veronica JJ Lau, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Elizabeth Viviana Tizon Larsen, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Valentina Rios, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Tiago H. Teixeira, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Isabella Valecillos, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- Leonor Fernanda Ayala, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (Currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy)
- Gabriela Heredia, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (Currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy)
- Divine Moya Manuel, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (Currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy)
- Genesis Rodriguez, Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (Currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy)
- Makalah Kimberly Bolling, Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9 (Currently @ J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy)
- Mathias Florez, Elmora School No. 12
- Haley Menares, Elmora School No. 12

- Salome Munoz Cortes, Elmora School No. 12
- Audrey L. Perez, Christopher Columbus School No. 15
- Micky-Ryan Patrick Haganey, Madison Monroe School No. 16 (currently @Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy)
- Caitlyn Rose Quintana, Victor Mravlag School No. 21
- Aimee Juliana Ayabaca, Victor Mravlag School No. 21 (currently @ Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy)
- Anabella Camille Fernandez, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Andrew Cardenas, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Diella Abigail Chacon, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Ebubechi Chinecherem Moore, William FD. Halloran School No.22
- Xavier Lorenzo Garcia, William F Halloran School No. 22
- Serina Jerry Mendez, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Danielle Lisbeth Mejia, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Alexandra Matos, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Joseph B. Peters, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Lanna Reis, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Gabriella Tavares Neves Lino, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Amir Yilmaz, William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Justin L. Casco Castro, William F. Halloran School no. 22 (currently @John E. Dwyer Technology Academy)
- Aurora Negron, William F. Halloran School No. 22 (currently @Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy)
- Rachele S. Sanchez, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy
- Carolina Paola Ucros Mina, William F. Halloran School No. 22 (currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy)
- Geovanna Heredia-Mena, Donia Sotomayor School No. 25 (currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy)
- Angelie Rose Morales, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 (currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy)
- Sara Daniella Toussaint, Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27 (currently @Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy)
- Adi Garcia, Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28
- Aries Immanuel Byron, Dr Albert Einstein School No. 29
- Imani D. Liverman, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29
- Richard Javier Alban Castillo, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29 (currently @Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy)
- Denzel A. Cabrera, Elizabeth High School – Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Joel Afonso Calado, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Alan Joel Cortez Lopez, Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy
- Anthony Alejandro Jimenez, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Nathalie Yuliana Mollo, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Wendell D. Munoz, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Alejandro Pinero, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Jayson A. Alvarez, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

- Mytjona Bond, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Yusrah Lawal, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Sebastian Restrepo, Alexander Preparatory Academy

Students who Achieved Perfect Score on the 2023 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessments (NJGPA)

- Franklin Guzman Jr., John E. Dwyer Technology Academy
- Hafic Jaffar Xavier, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy
- Jeffrey H. Abducakhmanov, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Camira Therese Baker, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Nathalie M. Bazurto, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Yaminah N. Carter, Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Paula Chavez, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Alan Joel Cortez Lopez, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Pablo Cesar Criollo, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Eddy Josue Cruz, Elizabeth High School -Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Bryanna Marie Gomez-Lindo, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Bruce Emile Jr., Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Stephanie M. Epp, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Jolie M. Estevao, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Mathias Herrmann, Elizabeth High School -Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Narissa Heslop, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Leyah I. Hope, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Al Amin Hossain, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Naima Joseph, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Gabrielle Lazo, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Sara Lazo, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Gabriela Lopez Ramirez, Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Daphne Moya Manuel, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Melany K. McCann, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Sarah N. Mendez, Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Fariha Mohiuddin, Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Melany Rodas Barros, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Viviana Andrea Sommer, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Isaac Joes Villalobos, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Jayson A. Alvarez, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Rhys Raquel Bolling, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Daniel Alexander Cruz Ruiz, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Sebastian Restrepo, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Rene Steven Rodriguez, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Markus Antonio Teheran, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Axel Vasquez Santiago, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Isabella Rose Ferrara, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

## Athletics Excellence

### Football

#### Football Head and Assistant Coach

- John Patsy Fiore, Head Coach
- Eugene H. Kline, Assistant Coach

#### Fall 2023 1st Team All-Conference Football

- Ibn Khalif Zafir McDaniels - JVJ Stem Academy
- Josue Blanco – Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy

#### Fall 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference Football

- A'rique Nazir Quasim Fleming – J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
- Isaiah Frank DeRosa, - Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## Athletics Excellence

### Boys' Soccer

#### Boys Soccer Head and Assistant Coaches

- Jacques Gonzales, Head Coach
- Diego S. Lopes De Graca, Head Coach
- Jimmy Silva Lima, Assistant Coach
- Byron G. Naranjo, Assistant Coach
- Sebastian O. Baison Pineiro, Assistant Coach

#### Fall 2023 1st Team All-Conference Boys' Soccer

- Justine M. Cedeno, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Brandon Quishpi-Aquiles, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Santiago Fernandez, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Steven Zuniga, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

#### Fall 2023 1st Team All-Union County Boys Soccer

- Justine M. Cedeno, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Brandon Quishpi-Aquiles, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

#### Fall 2023 2nd Team All-Union County Boys Soccer

- Santiago Fernandez, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Steven Zuniga, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

#### Fall 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All State Boys Soccer

- Justine M. Cedeno, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Brandon Quishpi-Aquiles, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

#### Fall 2023 All Group 4 First Team Boys Soccer

- Justine M. Cedeno, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy

- Brandon Quishpi-Aquiles, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Fall 2023 All Group 4 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Boys Soccer

- Steven Zuniga, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

Fall 2023 All-Watchung Honorable Mention Boys Soccer

- Andrew Gonzalez, Elizabeth High School- Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Victor Manuel Munoz, Elizabeth High School- Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Mark Ibarra, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Union County Team of the Year/Union County Champions Varsity Boys Soccer Fall 2023

- Jacob Agudelo, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Justin M. Cedenno, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## GIRLS SOCCER

Girls Soccer Head Coach and Assistant Coaches

- Mario Kawczynski, Head Coach
- German A Cardona Duque, Assistant Coach
- David S. Ayd, Assistant Coach
- Tyrone S. Florencia, Assistant Coach
- Xavier E. Florencia, Assistant Coach

Fall 2023 First Team Mountain Division Girls Soccer

- Melissa Pires, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Giovanna Marie Echavarria, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
- Brianna Isabella Concepcion, Elizabeth High School - Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Brianna Nicole Reyes Zepeda, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy

Fall 2023 First Team All-Union County Girls Soccer

- Melissa Pires, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Giovanna Marie Echavarria, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy

Fall 2023 Second Team Mountain Division Girls Soccer

- Zoe Pite, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Christi E. Mendoza, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
- Gabriella Cardona, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Fall 2023 Mountain Division Honorable Mention Girls Soccer

- Marissa Nicole Beita, Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy
- Sienna Campodonico, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Maria Jose Carvajal Oliveros, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy
- Laysha Zuleyma Tarazona, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

### Girls Cross Country Head Coach and Assistant Coach

- Michael Anthony Sacca, Head Coach
- Michael R. Penta, Assistant Coach

### Fall 2023 1st Team All-Mountain Division Girls Cross Country

- Eimy Rivera Leon, JVJ Stem Academy
- Yeilin X. Vargas Morillo, Elizabeth High School- Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Daphne Moya Manuel, Elizabeth High School- Frank J. Cicarell Academy

### Fall 2023 All-Mountain Honorable Mention Girls Cross Country

- Crystal Otalvaro Burbano, Union County Vocational Technical School
- Zaraie Castillo, Union County Vocational Technical School
- Gabriela Cardona, Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## BOYS CROSS COIUNTRY

### Boys Cross Country Head Coach and Assistant Coach

- Jose Julio Dias, Head Coach
- Bryant Cordova, Assistant Coach

### Fall 2023 2nd -Team All-Union County Boys Cross Country

- Maximus Alexander Bonilla, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

### Fall 2023 All-Watchung Honorable Mention Boys Cross Country

- Erick Fernando Hernandez, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy

Sebastian Lopez, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## GIRLS TENNIS

### Girls Tennis Head Coach and Assistant Coach

- Joseph A. Carnevale, Head Coach

- Jennifer Mary Craven, Assistant Coach

Fall 2023 Girls Tennis All-Mountain Honorable Mention

- Hannah M. Ayala, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Girls Volleyball Head Coach and Assistant Coach

- Javier Alejandro Santalla Tamayo, Head Coach
- Cesar Abdiel Vega, Assistant Coach

Fall 2023 3rd Team All-State Girls Volleyball

- Aries Elyse Fontaine, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

Fall 2023 2nd Team All-Group 4 Girls Volleyball

- Aries Elyse Fontaine, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

Fall 2023 1st Team All Union County Girls Volleyball

- Aries Elyse Fontaine, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy

## CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading Head Coach and Assistant Coach

- Sandra Michelle Evaristo, Head Coach
- Sharlama Eliza Brooks, Assistant Coach

Fall 2023 NCA All-American Team Cheerleading

- Malechi Nasiere Palmer, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Fall 2023 NCA All-American Team Nominee Cheerleading

- Lamarah Elise Charleston, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Zy'Ana Monae Fullman, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy
- Na'Riyah Daviana Stenbridge, John E. Dwyer Technology Academy
- Aime Margarite Arias, Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. Health & Public Safety Academy
- Alexandra Pena, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy
- Mikaela Alves, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy
- Solana M. Dixon, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy
- Tyre Green, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

- Melanye T. Osorio, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy
- Illeana S. Hernandez, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Camren Layla Davis, Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Jasiyah Yvonne Holley, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
- Genesis Melendez, J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
- Morgan LeBron JVJ Stem Academy

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Brandon Garcia, president of the International Longshoreman’s Association, Local 1235 and recognized and thanked him and the Union for their very generous gift of 629 toys for students in pre-k through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The overall value of these toys was over \$50,000. Mrs. Hugelmeyer also presented Mr. Garcia with a certificate of appreciation for this donation.

A video presentation was shown to the audience which highlighted Mrs. Chevres contributions, her community and her school involvement(s) and her wonderful accomplishments during her term as President of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Board President Iliana Chevres welcomed everyone to the December 13, 2023, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

Mrs. Chevres called the meeting to order and read the following statement at 6:00 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 December 8, 2023. 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 the Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center and to our television viewers to this December 13, 2023, 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: Mrs. Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, (joined the meeting at 6:45p.m.), Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres-7

Absent: Mmes. Barbosa, Carvalho. – 2

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 Ceden, 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 Fontaine Haynes, Retired Principal, George Washington School No. 1 and Edward P. Kolodziej, Custodian, Toussaint L’Overture - Marquis de Lafayette School No.6.

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, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana.

The Star-Spangled Banner was played.

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

Mrs. Chevres asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present her Community Update.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated it was her pleasure to introduce the Student Representative to the Board for this meeting, who is a senior at Elizabeth High School – Frank J Cicarell Academy. To provide a little background on this amazing student, Mrs. Hugelmeyer shared some words from Michael Cummings, principal of Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Vincent is a member of the School Improvement Panel at Cicarell Academy where he interacts with parents, teachers, and administrators to improve teaching and learning. Vincent is a member of student government and the National Honor Society. In addition, he has been recognized by the College Board as an AP Scholar for passing three or more AP exams. He has a passion for service to his school and community. It is an honor to have him represent Elizabeth High School-Frank J Cicarell Academy as the student representative to the Board of Education. Mrs. Hugelmeyer said it was her pleasure to have Vincent E. Zeferino join the Board of Education for this meeting.

Board President Mrs. Chevres asked Mr. Kennedy to have the record reflect Mr. Zeferino’s attendance at tonight’s meeting. It was duly noted by Mr. Kennedy.

Mrs. Chevres asked Board Secretary Harold Kennedy to read the following statement.

Citizens may address the Board.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have 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 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.
3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Speakers should refrain from naming individuals.
6. Comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated.

The presiding officer may:

1. Interrupt, warn or terminate a participant’s statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.
2. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.
3. 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.
4. 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.”

Mrs. Chevres called upon the first public participant, Nikita Clarke-Huff, to address the Board.

Ms. Clarke-Huff spoke about alleged incidents at her prior school.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Chevres called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Mrs. Lorenz spoke about Special Education.

Mrs. Chevres thanked her for her comments.

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

Mrs. Chevres asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to continue with her Community Update.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked student Representative, Vincent Zeferino, to provide a report to the community.

Good evening esteemed members of the Elizabeth board of education, Superintendent Hugelmeyer, Mr. Kennedy and the public. My name is Vincent Zeferino, and I am honored to represent Elizabeth High School Frank J Cicarell Academy to present to you this report on the status of the student body.

Elizabeth High School students constantly demonstrate their ingenuity and capability through extracurricular activities led and organized by the students themselves. At FJC, our senior class hosted the annual lip sync competition, in which each grade organized a performance and competed for the best showing. The STEM academy hosted its winter pep rally, building student moral and celebrating our diverse athletics. Elizabeth public schools celebrated our senior athletes this past week highlighting the hard work and dedication Elizabeth students make inside and outside the classroom. As December progresses, we look forward to more events, and thank the board for their constant support.

As student representatives we believe in the importance of serving our community, this past Saturday the city of Elizabeth held its annual toy giveaway at AMC theatre. Serving under the leadership of councilwoman Perkins, the student representatives coordinated more than 60 volunteers to giveaway over 800 toys. I'd like to thank my colleagues, Ingrid, Jeremiah, Gabriel, Ashley, Alondra, and Priscila for their hard work to make this possible. I also want to thank our advisor, Mrs. Craven, for her support.

Elizabeth students continue to play their part in giving back to their communities, earlier this month students from Terence C. Reilly school number 7 performed alongside the Thomas Jefferson choir at a tree lighting ceremony in Union Square Plaza and just yesterday the EHS Cologuard performed at the Miracle at Scott Park event. Signifying students' commitment to excellence.

I want to thank my friends and family, especially my grandma who is in from Portugal to be able to hear me tonight, as well as my teachers at FJC, especially my principal Mr. Cummings who's support has allowed me to fulfill my dreams of speaking here tonight. I look forward to working with the board and am grateful for the opportunity to speak tonight, thank you.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer continued her Community Update by reminding everyone that It remains Flu and RSV season. The District has provided resources that are accessible through our website which help identify Flu and RSV Symptoms. You may also visit the Flu/RSV resources page directly at [www.epsnj.org/flu-rsv](http://www.epsnj.org/flu-rsv)

The Union County Board of County Commissioners in collaboration with the Elizabeth Public Schools will be holding a Flu Vaccination Clinic at School #52 (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Early Childhood Center) 130 Trumbull St. on Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 7:30 p.m.

The Superintendent announced that Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy Senior, Bisneili Amaya had been awarded a full four-year scholarship to the University of Notre Dame through the QuestBridge Foundation. The QuestBridge foundation matches high achieving students from low-income families with fifty of the country's best colleges and universities. Miss Amaya was one of 2,240 high school seniors from across the nation that earned a QuestBridge scholarship.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer informed the audience that Admiral William F Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy English as a second language teacher, Ana M. Vargas and Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy In Class Support Teacher, Christine Irwin were named 2023 NEW Jersey Exemplary Educators by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Early Childhood Dance Specialist, Deanna Brennan, was one of 70 educators to receive the 2023 NJ Distinguished Cooperating Teacher award from the N.J. Department of Education. The award recognizes excellence in cooperating teachers who utilize their expertise to help prepare the state's most talented teacher candidates for careers as educators. She served as a mentor to Alison Ferry who was the recipient of the NJ Distinguished Clinical Intern award for 2023. Upon completion of her student teaching, Ms. Ferry joined the Elizabeth Public Schools as a team member and now is the Dance Teacher at William F. Halloran School No. 22.

In concluding her Community update, Mrs. Hugelmeyer on behalf of the entire Elizabeth Public School Community wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Before initiating a review of items that were proposed to be on the Agenda for this evening's meeting, Mrs. Chevres 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 (October 14, 2023, and November 21, 2023) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (October 31, 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 three (3) retirements, and we wish those people happiness and success. There were four (4) resignations – 3 teachers and 1 Security Guard. He was happy to report that we would be seeing seven (7) appointments of teachers, which is exciting. 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, two (2) teachers who have become instructional coaches and one (1) custodian who will become a Head Custodian if this section of the agenda is approved this evening. Mr. Cuesta stated the best part of his presentation was the fact that seven people would receive salary adjustments as six (6) people had reached 6-year master's level requirements and one person had received their Doctorate. In addition, Mr. Cuesta informed members of the board that Governor Murphy made a proposal, that would change the certification criteria for teachers as well as streamline the process for teacher candidates that would increase the applicant pool here in Elizabeth.

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

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

Tabs 4, 4a, 4b, 4bb, 4c 4d) Superintendent's Reports/ Considerations/Use of Facilities-Considerations/Field Trip Considerations – Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, requested approval for the District's AVID coordinator to attend AVID District Director Leadership Training. This is an opportunity for professional development within the AVID program. Mr. Bartolomeo Candelino, Director of Athletics sought approval for the Boys Varsity Basketball team to participate in three (3) out of town basketball tournaments (The Governors Challenge in Salisbury Maryland, the Seagull Classic in Absecon N.J. and the Battle by the Bay in Atlantic City N.J.). These tournaments give our team a chance to battle against the best competition in the state and nation.

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

Tab 5, Authorizations Report- Superintendent Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jenifer Cedeno, to present the re-certification for Terence C. Reilly School No. 7. Dr. Cedeno explained that Terence C. Reilly School No .7 is applying to be recertified as a National School of Character for the 2023-2024 school year. The National Schools of Character Board will be coming in to evaluate the Character education standards at the school and Dr. Cedeno hopes once again that Terence C. Reilly School is named a School of Character at the state and national levels.

Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services recommended that the Elizabeth Board of Education implement a Saturday Special Needs Recreation program that will service 120 students. This program will be held in cooperation with the City of Elizabeth Recreation Dept.

Director of Athletics, Mr. Bartolomeo Candelino Education, sought authorization for Elizabeth High School students to apply to participate in the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey “Jersey Drives Champion Schools Program “for the 2023 -2024 school year. This was recommended by Mr. Joseph Przytula, Supervisor of Athletics as the goal of the overall program is to reduce car accident fatalities, the leading cause of death in teens in the United States.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Judy Finch Johnson, informed the Board that she had 95 Fund Raising Requests that were seeking approval/authorization tonight. Among the fundraisers are a Sneaker Ball and a variety of other dances, T-shirt sales, Italian Ice sales, Book Fairs, a karaoke and movie night and school pictures.

Tab 5) Authorizations Report was added to the Agenda.

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.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer asked Dr. Kathy Badalis, Director of Professional Development & Innovative Programs, to discuss the contract with PowerSchool Group and V.I.P. Community Services. Dr Badalis stated that the proposed contract with the PowerSchool Group is for online on demand professional development consultations for all the platforms the District utilizes with PowerSchool Technologies. The contract with V.I.P. Community Services provides fifteen (15) sixty (60) minute Title 1 Parent and Family engagement in person or virtual training workshops on topics that the parent and/or principal finds most relevant.

Mr. Bartolomeo Candelino, Director of Athletics, requested approval of a contract with Empower Somerset to continue a partnership during the 2023-2024 school year to implement the SPARK Program, which is a social and emotional learning program. Members of Empower Somerset will visit Frank J. Cicarell Academy and meet with students recommended by the guidance department that may need assistance with their social and emotional well-being.

Mr. Rafael Cortes, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, spoke about a proposed contract with Helen Keller International. This organization will provide three thousand (3,000) students with eye exams and glasses as necessary. This will be done at no cost to the Board, or the parents/guardians of the students involved.

Mr. Anthony DiDonato, Director of Student Services, asked for approval for a contract with Alqamar Anderson as part of the Saturday Substance Abuse Program. Mr. Anderson details his personal journey and enlightens parents about the dangers of drug use and involvement with drugs.

Mr. Luis Milanes, Director of Plant, Property, and Equipment had several contacts up for review:

- Open Systems Integrators- Replacement of the intercom system at School No. 15
- 2 Contracts with Challenger Fence Inc. – a) additional fencing at Williams field. b) replacement fencing at the entrance of Mabel G. Holmes
- USA Architects -Architectural and Engineering services related to updating the Long-Range Facility plan.
- Northern Interior Services LLC – HVAC insulation replacement at School No. 26.

- Murray Paving and Concrete LLC – Replacement of the vestibule in Roon No 5 at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, this will bring the area in to ADA compliance.

Mr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Student Services, sought approval for contracts with Bergen County Special Services and Mountain Lakes Board of Education respectively to provide interpreter services and Speech/Language evaluations for a Special Education student. In addition, Dr. Ojeda presented a contract with Horizon Health Care for nursing services for a Special Education student. His final request was approval of a contract with Union County Educational Services -Child Study Team for additional Child Study Team services for the District.

Tabs 7 and 7a were added to the Agenda.

Tab 8 Committee Reports

**Special Education Committee**

November 7, 2023

12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m

**Attendees:** Iliana Chevres, Board President; Charlene Bathelus-Dorgely, Board Vice-President; Diane Barbosa, Board Member/Chairperson of Special Education Committee; Edward Kologi, General Counsel; Judge Malone, General Counsel; Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Dr. Michael Ojeda, Director of Special Services and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools

The Special Education Committee discussed the annual holiday tradition of visits with Santa Claus at schools. Santa Claus will visit our self-contained Special Education classes throughout the district this year. A chart with several scheduled dates and times was presented.

An update on services provided by Trinitas/Robert Wood Johnson Hospital was presented to the committee. Trinitas/Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center is currently experiencing its longest waiting periods for all mental health services. This wait time is for all programs, including the day treatment, substance abuse, afterschool, and half-day programs. A list of therapy resources was reviewed to provide additional services, including Cooperative Counseling Services, Precious Medical Care, True Care Mental Health Clinic, PROCEED and Family and Children’s Services. The majority are based in Elizabeth and Union.

The committee reviewed the programs offered to students in the district. Additionally, new entrant data was discussed.

The committee also discussed the recent SEPAC meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The proposed workshop is scheduled for January 25, 2024, on the topic of “*Handling challenging behaviors in the home*”. Lastly, the committee suggested migrating to virtual meetings versus in person meetings to promote parent participation and reminders regarding the workshop opportunities posted on the district website.

The committee requested the following items for the next Special Education Committee meeting scheduled to take place in January.

- Classification rates in neighboring districts over the past three years.

## Education Management Committee

December 12, 2023

12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.

**Attendees:** Iliana Chevres, Board President; Charlene Bathelus-Dorgely, Board Vice-President; Rosa Moreno Ortega, Board Member; Stephanie Pestana, Board Member; Edward Kologi, General Counsel; Judge Malone, General Counsel; Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools

The committee reviewed the Demographic Breakdown of Gifted and Talented Schools, Magnet Schools and High School Academies for school years 2018-2019 through the current school year and the enrollment of the special needs students in self-contained classes.

Academic performance during marking period 1 of the 2023-2024 school year includes benchmarks, final marking period grades, and GPA for high school students. Benchmark and marking period performance are reported in two ways. We report on the percentage of students who passed their ELA and Math benchmarks and courses, as well as the percentage of students who earned an 80 or better on their ELA and Math benchmarks and courses.

The district benchmark performance data was reviewed for the 2023-2024 Marking Period 1 for English Language and Mathematics. The data was provided by grade level and course. In addition, the combined performance for all grades by demographic, female, male, English Language Learners, General Education, Special Education, and students that fall under Special Education and English Language Learners.

The committee reviewed the district's measures of success and discussed the current performance:

100% of EPS graduates will meet the requirement to enter a 2 or 4-year college, a technical school, or service to our nation and /or will hold a license or certificate enabling them to enter the workforce.

55% of our students that graduated enrolled in college in the Fall 2023

90% of EPS students will graduate on time.

86.9% of the class of 2023 graduated within four years.

90% of EPS graduates will enroll in at least one Advanced Placement course before graduating.

57.4% of our high school students in the 2022-2023 school year took at least one AP course.

90% of EPS students will maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher throughout high school.

58.2% of the Class of 2023 graduated with a 3.0 or better GPA

The committee requested the following item for the next Education Management Committee meeting scheduled to take place in January.

- Review of Marking Period 2 attendance and grades
- Review of participation rate in tutoring programs and academic support programs.

## Properties Committee

November 8, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Attendees:** Iliana Chevres, Board President; Charlene Bathelus-Dorgely, Board Vice-President; Maria Carvalho, Board Member/Chairperson of Properties Committee; Judge Malone, General Counsel; Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Luis Milanes, Director of Plant, Property & Equipment and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools

1. Update on Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Black Box Theatre construction
  - 70% completed – all construction completed.
  - Lighting is currently underway.
  - Pending arrival of equipment.
  - Placing orders for the furniture.
  - Completion date – approximately 60 days
2. Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy facade update
  - Construction on the facade has been underway but will pause due to winter weather and resume in the Spring 2024
3. Plan of action for Air Conditioning School 5, 6, 12,18, 19, Hamilton, Edison, Edison Annex
  - School 6,18,19 and Edison Annex will be completed this September 2024
  - Hamilton Academy and Edison Academy will be completed in November 2024
  - School 5 and School 12 require asbestos abatement and will be completed Summer 2025
4. Snow readiness for EPS
  - Contractors, new vehicles, and new school snow blowers are in place.
  - Recommended that snow readiness procedures be reviewed at the next department meeting. Administrative Regulation is recommended as the standard operating procedure
5. Winter break projects
  - E-SIP projects
  - Cooling tower at high school (main) and School 1
6. Update on the pendant installation?
  - Pendant for Girls Basketball and Marching Band at EHS-FJC
  - Updated pendants needed for athletics at Dunn Sports Center
  - Overall review of all pendants throughout the district
7. Air Purifiers
  - Reminder throughout the district of the use of portable air purifiers
8. Lease at Imperial Building
  - 3500 square feet, 6 offices
9. Status of the new sound system at school 6
  - New sound system will be in place by February 2024

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Resolutions 10 to 10K were added to the Agenda.

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

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

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Dorgely, (with an abstention on Tab 5 pg. 4 Donation of turkeys Tab 5 pg. 5 donations of groceries), Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron (with an abstention on Tab 5 pg. 1 Saturday Special Needs Program) Goncalves Pestana, (with an abstention on Tab 5 pg. 4 Donation of turkeys Tab 5 pg. 5 donations of groceries), Rivera, Chevres -7

Negative: none

Mr. Neron asked for a moment to speak about Resolution 10-1 which honored and commemorated the memory of long-time principal, Mr. Fontaine Haynes. Mr. Haynes served the Elizabeth School District for over 37 years. He was a mentor to many young men most especially young black men for whom Mr. Haynes served as role model. He encouraged young folks to embrace education and have it take you as far as it could. Mr. Neron expressed his condolences to Mr. Hayne's family and his gratitude for all Mr. Haynes had done for the district.

Mr. Kennedy spoke to Resolution 10-f which establishes an Employee Assistance Program as a free benefit being offered to the over four thousand (4,000) employees of the District to support employees facing challenges of all kinds in their work and personal lives. An employee may anonymously call the Employee Assistance Program and seek assistance with family, marital, child, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, and depression etc. An employee may have six sessions with a therapist at no cost. Mr. Neron applauded everyone's efforts in getting this program in place as the Board has known since Covid that emotional health was an issue with many team members.

Board President Illiana Chevres asked for a few moments to summarize and reflect on her term as Board President. After almost a year as Board President I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who have been part of this important commitment, especially my fellow Board Members, who made this opportunity possible. During this past year we have been working together for the benefit of our students because we all believe they are the foundation of our future and providing them with the best possible education will make this future possible. Serving as Board president is a great responsibility and I truly appreciate your support this past year. Twelve months later, I can say it has been an amazing experience connecting with the members of the Elizabeth Public Schools. We have many things to be proud of, and many more achievements are ahead in 2024, because our main goal is working together for the betterment of our community. One of my main priorities in the past year was to inspire the best in each other as we worked together as a team. I have always believed that a team works best when it clearly communicates, listens effectively, and comes together as one to resolve issues. The opportunity to visit all the schools and departments this year gave me the opportunity to see in person that our District is filled with teachers, administrators and support staff who are outstanding at working together to provide the best educational experience for our students and most importantly for the support of families and community members. This spirit of teamwork also extended to the main administrative office which excels at providing the support our schools need to provide exceptional education and services to our students and families. One of my goals has been to promote activities for parents which help foster family commitment and a vision for their student's success. Through programs like the Parents Educational Institute and Family Workshops organized by our schools, we are empowering parents with the necessary tools to be active participants in their

children's education. We continue to achieve excellence in our schools every day, through academic success, championship level athletics, outstanding artistic performances some of which were celebrated tonight. The future of the Elizabeth Public Schools is exciting because we have all the elements necessary to continue to achieve excellence and that includes our Team Members. I am very proud to be part of the Elizabeth Community and I am grateful to be raising my children here in what became my new home years ago. I thank all the members of the school community for having an incredible commitment to preparing students for academic and life success. In closing I want to thank once again all my fellow Board Members, Superintendent, Olga Hugelmeyer, Mr. Kennedy, our central and school administrators, our teachers and all our support staff for their outstanding dedication to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Thank you again to my family and I hope we all have continued success as a team in 2024.

Mr. Neron congratulated Mrs. Chevres on an outstanding year as president. He stated that she serves as a mom and an advocate in our community and is always working hard and advocating for children. Even if Mrs. Chevres was not a board member, Mr. Neron believes she would be out there advocating every day for our children, a quality he truly admires. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega said she agreed with Mr. Neron's praise of Mrs. Chevres's term as president. She further spoke in Spanish reflecting on the fine work that Mrs. Chevres had done in the past year. Vice President Charlene Dorgely said she echoed Mr. Neron's comments and said it was great working with Mrs. Chevres as vice president. She wanted to thank Mrs. Chevres for showing her what it was to be a great team member by always working together.

Mrs. Chevres 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 Interviews, Personal Matters, specifically A.F., R.G., A.B.

Legal Matters, specifically, Workers Compensation A.F.

The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dorgely and seconded by Mr. Rivera to go into private session at 7:25 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: none

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega to return to public session at 10:07 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: none

The following items were added to the Agenda:

Resolution- Appointment of Interim Coordinator of Custodians – Orlando L. Carnet

Resolution - Appointment of Interim Supervisor of Custodians – Remberto Luis Martinez

Resolution – Appointment of Interim Supervisor of Custodians – Roger Clinton McNeil

Resolution – Termination of Employment for Cause – A.N.R.

Resolution - Settlement of Workers Compensation Case – A.F.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dorgely and seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega to approve the additional Agenda items.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres with an abstention on the appointment of the interim Coordinator and interim Supervisors of Custodians -7

Negative: none

Mrs. Chevres asked Mrs. Hugelmeyer to present the H.I.B. Report for the month of November.

HIB Presentation for the December Board of Education Meeting  
12/13/23

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 November 21, 2023, and through December 11, 2023, our school counselors and school based social workers have completed 32 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 16 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 13 males, 23 females, 35 regular education students and 1 special education students that were the alleged victims. There were 23 males, 19 females, 38 regular education students, and 4 special education students that were the alleged offenders. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 13 skill development lessons/trainings, 29 counseling sessions, 2 targeted behavioral interventions, 9 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 7 classroom changes, 1 change of school placement, 2 administrative counseling sessions, 4 in school detentions, 21 parent conferences, 12 out of school suspensions, 3 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 58 cases that was reported to you at the last Board meeting on November 21, 2023. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations, which were reported to you at the last board meeting, has been provided for your review prior to voting.

Are there any questions?

Mrs. Chevres asked if any Board members have any further questions or comments. Being none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Affirmative: Mrs. Dorgely, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Neron, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Chevres -7

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary