

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 20, 2015
Elizabeth, New Jersey

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called on August 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the MultiPurpose Room, Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood Education, 544 Pennsylvania Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Board President Ana Maria Amin presented the following statement at 7:30 p.m.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening. This is a regularly scheduled 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 Worrall Community Newspapers, The Star Ledger and Cablevision of Elizabeth on Monday, August 17, 2015. 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.”

“I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to our television viewers to this August 20, 2015 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. I also ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, I may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities. I am pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us. 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 sign in one hour prior to the advertised 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: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo (arr. 7:42 p.m.), Mrs. Amin – 8

Absent: Mr. Neron – 1

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Schools Rafael Cortes, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer Ceden, Assistant Board Secretary Donald Goncalves, Associate Counsel Heather Ford and members of the public were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem

The National Anthem of Peru was performed by Manuel Suarez.
The National Anthem of Ecuador was played.
The National Anthem of the Dominican Republic was played.

Pledge of Ethics
Mrs. Amin introduced a video presentation of the Core Beliefs and Commitments.

Mrs. Amin introduced two members of the Mi Peru Dance Group who performed a dance routine to *La Marinera*, a Peruvian Folklore Dance. Mrs. Amin thanked them for the wonderful performance.

Mrs. Amin stated that in celebration of Peruvian Independence Day the Board congratulated the entire Peruvian community of Elizabeth and honored and recognized Peruvian-American residents of Elizabeth for their outstanding work and dedication to the community.

Mrs. Amin recognized Antonio Morales for his dedication and work as a community leader in promoting Peruvian culture through the arts. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated Antonio Morales and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Rodriguez recognized Luis Palomino, Vice President of Peruvians for Progress, in celebration of the anniversary of the Peruvian independence. Mr. Rodriguez and Board members congratulated him and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Perreira recognized Anki Moromisato, seven time National Gymnastics Champion in Peru and a participant at the 1987 Pan American Games where he represented Peru. Mr. Perreira and Board members congratulated Anki Moromisato in recognition of his abilities and athletic achievements and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Amin recognized Jacques Gonzales, Vice Principal, for his dedication to mentoring and coaching the youth of Elizabeth in the areas of education and sports. Mrs. Amin and Board members congratulated Jacques Gonzales and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina congratulated the entire Ecuadorian community of Elizabeth and recognized Silvia Jauregui, founder and President of Ecuatorianos Unidos, a non-profit dedicated to the advancement of the Ecuadorian community. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina and Board members congratulated Silvia Jauregui and presented her with resolution in celebration of Ecuadorian Independence Day.

Mrs. Carvalho recognized Gilberto Cruz, President of the Dominican Parade, in celebration of the Dominican heritage and the contributions of the Dominican community of the City of Elizabeth. Mrs. Carvalho and Board members congratulated Gilberto Cruz and presented him with a plaque of commemoration.

Mr. Monteiro recognized Diego Padilla for his civic involvement and leadership in community activism. Mr. Monteiro and Board members congratulated Diego Padilla and presented him with a plaque of commemoration

Board President Amin presented the following public participation statement.

“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 microphones 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 sixty 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 participants shall apply: time limits will be strictly enforced, no personal attacks on individuals, no vulgar or indecent language, a person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting, speakers should refrain from naming individuals, and comments or questions posed during public participation will not be debated. As a reminder, this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Amin called upon the first public participant, Rosa Moreno, to address the Board.

Rosa Moreno, 17 Clover Street, stated that she is the new Vice President of the American Hispanic-Portuguese Association and would like to meet with the superintendent to explain the opportunities available.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Christina Moreira, to address the Board.

Christina Moreira, 805 Gebhardt Avenue, spoke about a Board member.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria Lorenz, to address the Board.

Maria Lorenz, 103 Murray Street, spoke about special education.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments and called upon the next public participant, Maria DaRassi, to address the Board.

Maria DaRassi, 336 Franklin Avenue, spoke about special education and politics.

Mrs. Amin thanked her for her comments. Since there were no other citizens signed in to address the Board, Mrs. Amin declared this portion of the public meeting closed.

The Board went into recess at 8:15 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the minutes of the meetings of July 23 and August 4, 2015 be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho (abstain- July 23, 2015), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 7

Abstain: Mr. Rodriguez – 1

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that it was disturbing to read the attack on members of the public. Mr. Rodriguez started to speak about a personnel action of an employee.

John Geppert, Jr. Esq., Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLC, stated that personnel matters should not be discussed in public. Mr. Geppert stated that the action was taken at another meeting and the Board members are prohibited from discussing personnel in public. Mr. Geppert stated that they are closed session items and that is the appropriate time to speak about them. Mr. Geppert cautioned Board members not to speak about personnel matters in public.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he appreciates that but he knows in public though we can discuss things on the minutes. Mr. Rodriguez stated that also if we were to discuss personnel matters in private that is when we have to RICE the employee. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he believes in public we are allowed to still speak about them. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he takes his cautionary comment and he appreciates that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he finds this agreement to be inappropriate and he feels that we are going down a path that is not appropriate.

Mr. Geppert again cautioned Mr. Rodriguez about speaking about personnel matters (at which time he was interrupted).

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he has the floor. Mr. Rodriguez stated that as a Board attorney he should not really be cutting him off.

Mr. Geppert stated that when he thinks Mr. Rodriguez is going over the line he has to caution him and he wants it to be part of the public record that he has said that personnel matters under the statute are to be discussed in closed session. Mr. Geppert stated that what was discussed earlier, a vote was taken, and the matter is over. Mr. Geppert stated that at this point he cautioned Mr. Rodriguez to not talk about personnel matters in public.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he finds it highly inappropriate and he feels that we are going down a path that will then show our students and our employees something that we shouldn't be doing. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the vote shows here who voted in the affirmative and who voted in the negative. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he just wanted his voice to be added to the minutes and for his disgust to be put into the minutes. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he finds it highly inappropriate and he understands that it might have been the best case or the best of the worst case but it is something that is really unacceptable.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Personnel Report – Leaves of Absence, etc.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira (abstain- M.P.), Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Personnel Report – Resignation, etc.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Tuition Report

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo asked if this is tuition for out of district placement services.

Mr. Kennedy responded yes.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it is a very substantial amount of money and it shows a commitment and a continued commitment to the success of all children including those with disabilities and challenges. Mr. Trujillo commended the Board for continuing to support these children and despite what some may think it just isn't true that we aren't doing enough. Mr. Trujillo stated that we are doing a lot more than most districts.

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities (TABLED)

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Ms. Bathelus, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees except for the requests from Merlin Soccer Club and Elizabeth Youth Soccer be approved with a waiver of facility fees.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that we have never charged non-profits for using our gymnasiums.

Mr. Kennedy responded that we have. Mr. Kennedy asked if Mrs. Carvalho was referring to athletic teams. Mr. Kennedy stated that we have to pay security to be in the buildings when the clubs are there.

Mrs. Carvalho asked if we can discuss that after.

Mr. Kennedy asked if she wanted to waive the fees on all.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that she thought that is what we usually do.

Mr. Kennedy stated that we haven't been for about the last year.

Mrs. Carvalho made a motion to table.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carvalho, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to table the report.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities (TABLED)

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to table the report.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Field Trips

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the requests be approved.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Olga Hugelmeyer stated that tonight's report will be the presentation of the School Self-Assessment for determining grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. Mrs. Hugelmeyer stated that the Commissioner of Education is required to grade each public school and school district's effort to implement the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer introduced Mr. Peter Vosseler, Acting Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC to present the report.

Peter Vosseler, Acting Supervisor of Anti-Bullying/EEOC, stated that we are required by State law to present the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying self-assessment two times per year. Mr. Vosseler stated that tonight he is presenting the HIB self-assessment for the 2014-2015 school year on how we are assessing our performance under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. Mr. Vosseler stated that, as you can see on our website, we are a No Bully Zone and that is important to know because every child has the right to go to school and learn no matter what size, shape, color, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, financial background that he or she has.

Mr. Vosseler stated that Governor Christie signed the Anti-Bullying law in 2011 which is the toughest Anti-Bullying law in the nation and states that no child should ever be made to feel that school is a place where he or she will be degraded, demoralized, singled out, hounded, discriminated against or taken advantage of in a vulnerable situation.

Mr. Vosseler stated that a rubric was developed by the State to aide districts in assessing the school's efforts and improving their Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights programs. Mr. Vosseler stated that the rubric was designed to be a growth model and to be used to enhance programs at schools and districts and consists of eight core elements and twenty-six indicators with each indicator having a score of zero to three points. Mr. Vosseler explained that the first core element deals with programs, approaches, and initiatives and whether they are designed to create a better school climate. Mr. Vosseler stated that the second core element is training on our policy and includes looking at who we have to train, making sure our policy includes the protected classes under the law, and that we discuss the policy with students in an age appropriate manner. Mr. Vosseler stated that the third core element is about staff instruction and training programs and there is a requirement in the law that in every five year cycle certified staff have to get two hours of HIB training and two hours of suicide training. Mr. Vosseler stated that the Anti-Bullying Specialists have to be able to meet with the Anti-Bullying Coordinator during school time and to be able to receive training during that time. Mr. Vosseler stated that we have to be able to provide professional development to the school safety team which is a group that oversees the process at each school and that school leaders have also received the appropriate information. Mr. Vosseler stated that the fourth core element is curriculum and instruction and although it does not have a lot of indicators within this core element it is important because it is assessing how the school is providing appropriate instruction within the curriculum and whether the school and district are observing the Week of Respect which is the first full week in October. Mr. Vosseler stated that the fifth core element is regarding HIB required personnel and whether there is an Anti-Bullying Specialist and we go beyond the requirement by also appointing an Alternate Anti-Bullying Specialist in each school. Mr. Vosseler stated that it assesses whether we met the minimum requirement of meetings which we do and surpass and that the school safety team (SST) met in the appropriate manner. Mr. Vosseler stated that the sixth core element is whether we have implemented the district's procedure for reporting HIB and all the required elements that go along with it and whether we have the procedure to put in new information into older cases. Mr. Vosseler stated that the seventh core element is our actual procedure and this deals a lot with timelines and did we meet all the timelines including doing investigations within ten days, sending it to the superintendent within the next two days, did the board vote on it, and other timelines. Mr. Vosseler stated that the last core element is HIB reporting and is there a system for our staff to report things. Mr. Vosseler stated that now we are using the HIBster system which is an electronic system to record and everything has become smoother. Mr. Vosseler stated that they just added a new requirement that asks if we posted all of our HIB assessment scores on the website. Mr. Vosseler stated that our HIB assessment scores are on the main website and each individual school website.

Mr. Vosseler explained the scoring and that zero is for not meeting the requirements, 1 is for partially meeting the requirements, 2 is for meeting all the requirements which is where everyone should be, and 3 is for exceeding the requirements. Mr. Vosseler stated that to meet and exceed the requirement there are a lot of indicators on the rubric that the school has to meet. Mr. Vosseler stated that the highest possible score is 78 which means that every indicator was scored

a 3 and they have exceeded every indicator. Mr. Vosseler stated that a score of 52 means all of the indicators were met. Mr. Vosseler stated that our schools this year ranged from 48 to 68, and 26 schools scored 52 or more which is the majority of our schools. Mr. Vosseler stated that the average score across all the schools which in turn becomes the district score is 55.5 which is up from 51.32 last year.

Mr. Vosseler stated that each school completed their self-assessment, input their information into the NJ DOE website and we reviewed it to make sure it was complete. Mr. Vosseler stated that tonight we are presenting the results to the public. Mr. Vosseler stated that the Board members will have the opportunity tonight to vote to approve the self-assessment. Mr. Vosseler stated that although the information is in the NJ DOE website it is not official until after the Board takes action. Mr. Vosseler stated that after the Board takes action, the Superintendent will give assurances that are required by the State and then we will submit the report.

Mr. Vosseler explained a chart showing the results of each school and scores of 50 or 51 is where the schools want to be showing that they are meeting the requirements of the law. Mr. Vosseler stated that compared to last year the schools have gone up and this is a growth model which means that these scores are important because we can see where we need to improve. Mr. Vosseler stated that we have improved and we continue to improve.

Mr. Vosseler stated that the highlights of our work to date include an annual Week of Respect, district training for our team members, State training for the Anti-Bullying Coordinator, and guest speakers who address different aspects of anti-bullying at the schools. Mr. Vosseler stated that we have contracted with the community program called Breaking the Cycle and also contracted for cyber-bullying and internet safety training to all of our students with Detective Nicholas Veltre from the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Vosseler stated that we used the HIBster reporting system which is a streamlined way to process the incidents in a most efficient manner and continuing and expanding our HIB/Character Education Programming.

Mr. Vosseler stated that the work ahead of us is to analyze self-assessments by school and determining the areas which need improvement and what they need to improve upon, focus on working with the school safety teams in improving school climate at all schools, and implementing HIB/Character Education programming for all schools. Mr. Vosseler stated that the ultimate goal is improving school climate so all of our children feel safe. Mr. Vosseler asked if there were any questions and if there was anyone who would like to comment on tonight's report.

Mrs. Amin thanked Mr. Vosseler for his informative report.

Christina Moreira asked if a parent has to be part of the school safety team, if the meetings are open to the public, and who can she contact.

Mr. Vosseler stated that a parent is part of the school safety team and the requirement is that they have to attend at least one meeting during the school year. Mr. Vosseler stated that the parent can attend as many as they want but any confidential matters cannot be discussed with the parent present. Mr. Vosseler stated that the parent can contact the school principal or the anti-bullying specialist in the specific school.

Mr. Rodriguez congratulated Mr. Vosseler on his presentation. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it was a big concern when he was running for the Board of Ed and it still is and always will be. Mr. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Vosseler has done a really good job and this year and for a while now we have started to track repeat offenders and repeat victims which the law doesn't require. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we've been doing that to see what we can do different. Mr. Rodriguez stated that last year under Mr. Monteiro's leadership as president of the Board he started an anti-bullying committee. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we are one of ten or twenty school districts that have a committee like that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have been trying to get on top of it.

Maria Lorenz stated that HIB is not unilateral across the district.

Mr. Vosseler asked for specific information so he can sit down with Mrs. Lorenz privately and go over it if she would like to do that and he can answer her question.

Maria Lorenz responded that she would give him her contact information.

Resolution – Acceptance of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) 2015 Self-Assessment and Authorization to Submit to New Jersey Department of Education

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Authorizations Report – Authorization to Enter into Partnership, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- D.G., H.K.), Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Authorizations Report – Authorization to Participate, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Dominican Parade is 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23.

Finance and Accounting Report – Authorization to Pay Vouchers

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that for the past few months he has been asking the Legal Committee in some of their meetings to discuss some type of plan that we can do to somehow lower our legal bills. Mr. Rodriguez stated that unless he has heard different he doubts that they have any kind of plan. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would just like to ask again the next time the legal committee shows up. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he knows he has been attacked for not having any ideas and he would love to be part of that meeting and offer some ideas and work together as a whole but we need to do something. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he knows we are a large district and he knows we get sued and we have to have legal representation and he understands that. Mr. Rodriguez stated that somehow we have to control that and to please put that on their agenda for next time.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; MARC Attorneys at Law; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; MARC Attorneys at Law; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro (abstain- DMR Architects), Perreira, Rodriguez (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; MARC Attorneys at Law; Schwartz Simon Edeltstein & Celso, LLC), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Award of Contracts Report

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Miscellaneous Communication

None.

Claims List

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; MARC Attorneys at Law), Mrs. Carvalho (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; MARC Attorneys at Law), Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira (abstain- Candelario Trujillo), Rodriguez (negative- Glazer & Kamel Attorneys at Law; Jasinski; Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.; MARC Attorneys at Law), Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Authorizing the Procurement of Supplemental Special Education Services through Approved Professional Service Providers

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Rodriguez asked what kind of services this could include.

Mrs. Hugelmeyer explained that it includes the occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech services as examples.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the services have to go through a bid process.

Mr. Kennedy explained that without this resolution every time a child needs services the Board would have to award the contract each time for each child. Mr. Kennedy stated that this allows the same service when one child is getting the service then another child can get the same service.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there is a ceiling that the purchasing agent can approve before going to the Board for approval.

Mr. Kennedy stated that there are costs per evaluation that they pay for each child.

Mr. Trujillo stated that for clarification when Mr. Rodriguez asked if the purchasing agent had a limit to how much he can spend for providing services for a special needs child.

Mr. Kennedy explained that if the evaluation was \$500. per student that would be the cap for that particular service from that provider.

Mr. Trujillo stated that it depends on the provider and the need of the child and there isn't any way that a child isn't getting a service.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the ultimate cap is that each of these services has a specific line code in the budget and that is the ultimate threshold. Mr. Kennedy stated that if a service came up and we were at the maximum of that budget then we would have to do a budget transfer in order to continue to provide the service. Mr. Kennedy stated that we cannot say that we are out of money and can't provide the service.

Mr. Trujillo asked where that money would come from.

Mr. Kennedy explained.

Mr. Trujillo asked didn't we increase our funding for special education in the budget this year.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the special education budget increased \$7 million this year.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

The second reading of the following revised and new policy and exhibits was done:

5131(X)	Exhibit	Code of Student Conduct Rubric
6146	Policy	Graduation Requirements
6146(X)	Exhibit	Graduation Requirements

Resolution – Revised and New Policy and Exhibits (TABLED)

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, to table the resolution.

The motion to table was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Requisition for Taxes

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Sick Days

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Payment for Unused Vacation Days

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Five Year Curriculum Plan for 2015-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Curriculum Guides for 2015-2016 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Programs of Study for 2015-2016 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Textbooks in Use for 2015-2016 School Year

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Trujillo, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho excused herself from the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Ms. Bathelus excused herself from the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Resolution – Peru's Independence Day

Mr. Monteiro read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho returned to the meeting at 9:27 p.m. Mrs. Carvalho stated that she would like to vote in the affirmative for the previous resolution. The vote for the resolution reflects the affirmative vote.

Resolution – Ecuador's Independence Day

Mrs. Castillo-Ospina read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Resolution – Honoring Dominican Republic

Mr. Trujillo read the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo recognized EEA President Rose Carreto and Vice President Joe Cortico who were in attendance. Mr. Trujillo recognized two ladies seeking election, Stephanie Goncalves and Michelle Velez-Jonte and wished them good luck.

Mr. Rodriguez wished the team members a happy and healthy year.

Ms. Bathelus returned to the meeting at 9:33 p.m. Ms. Bathelus stated that she would like to vote in the affirmative for the three previous resolutions. The vote for the three previous resolutions reflect the affirmative votes.

The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of personnel, specifically, appointments, transfers, increment and salary adjustment withholdings, supplemental personnel report, settlement agreements E.H., J.B.; Donaldson hearings; legal matter, specifically, special education agreement M.B.; Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying results and Workers' Compensation Claims, specifically E.M., J.P., D.B., F.R., and K.V. The Board will reconvene in public to take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Trujillo, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to go into private session at 9:34 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Mrs. Amin – 8

Negative: None

Mr. Trujillo excused himself from the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to reconvene in public session at 12:00 a.m. to continue the meeting and take formal action.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to take the Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to take the Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, to take the Resolution – Revised and New Policy and Exhibits off the table.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the requests be approved with a waiver of fees.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho (abstain- Elizabeth Youth Soccer), Castillo-Ospina (abstain- Merlin Soccer, Elizabeth Youth Soccer), Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Supplemental Superintendent's Report – Use of Facilities

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the requests be approved as recommended.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the properties committee could look into perhaps raising the rates on some of these. Mr. Rodriguez stated that in the past few years he doesn't think the rate has gone up and if they could study whether it would be feasible to raise some of the rates for security, insurance, lights, and the rates that we charge these organizations. Mr. Rodriguez stated that we need to look to see if they have been raised in the last few years and if we need to or not.

Mr. Perreira stated that most of them are in Elizabeth and asked about space for those from out of town.

Mr. Kennedy stated that mostly they are religious organizations that use our facilities for their services and some are from out of town.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the reason why he mentioned the rates is because the rates may need to go up according to the new EEA contract.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

The second reading of the following revised and new policy and exhibits was done:

5131(X)	Exhibit	Code of Student Conduct Rubric
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6146	Policy	Graduation Requirements
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6146(X)	Exhibit	Graduation Requirements
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Resolution – Revised and New Policy and Exhibits

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Second Supplemental Personnel Report – Reappointment, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus (negative- A.S.), Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Superintendent’s Report – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Investigative Results

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the report be accepted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Appointments

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Perreira, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – 2015-2016 Increment and Salary Withholding

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Employee Separation Agreement and Resignation – E.H.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Superintendent’s Recommendation of Appointment – N.P. and L.G. (TABLED)

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

Mr. Monteiro stated that there may be some legal issue and requested to table.

A motion was made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Perreira, to table the resolution.

The motion to table the resolution was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Mrs. Amin – 4

Negative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho, Mr. Rodriguez – 3

Ms. Bathelus stated that we talked about it in private and if there was a concern we should have talked about it in private.

Mr. Monteiro stated that there is a legal issue involved. Mr. Monteiro stated that it is a professional courtesy for a table for a Board member and he will remember it for next time.

Ms. Bathelus stated that we have always respected your request for tabling things at all times but we just left the room.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that you still won.

Mrs. Carvalho stated that all she said was that we need to motion to take it off so that then we can make a new motion which is the legal way to do that.

Resolution – Settlement Agreement – J.B.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Special Education Agreement M.B. o/b/o A.B.

A motion was made by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers’ Compensation Claim (2013-30476) – J.P.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2012-19509) – E.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Resolution – Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claim (2013-24295) – E.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Perreira, seconded by Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, that the resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 6

Abstain: Mrs. Carvalho – 1

Negative: None

Mrs. Amin asked if there was any old business to discuss. Since there was not any old business to discuss, Mrs. Amin asked if there was any new business to discuss.

On a motion by Ms. Bathelus, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 a.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Carvalho, Castillo-Ospina, Messrs. Monteiro, Perreira, Rodriguez, Mrs. Amin – 7

Negative: None

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