

Approved May 7th
Board Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

March 25, 2026
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Maria Z. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the March 25, 2026, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education and read the following statement.

“Good evening and welcome to our Board of Education Meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education. 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 March 5, 2026. 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 School No. 51 and to our television viewers to this March 25, 2026, 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. So that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking.”

“We 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.”

“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 public participation portion 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.”

“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”

Present: Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs (arrived 5:52 p.m.), Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana (arrived at 11:29 p.m. Via Virtual Platform), Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho -8

Absent -Ms. Bathelus (1)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Assistant Superintendent for Schools Mrs. Judy Finch-Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Rafael Cortes, School Business Administrator/Board

Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr. Assistant School Business Administrator Rajeev Malhotra, Deputy Counsel, Heather Savage Ford Esq, and Co-General Counsel Michael Simitz, Esq., of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

Mrs. Carvalho asked everyone to please stand for a Moment of Silence in Memory of:

Daniel Isaih Spencer-Diaz, Eighth Grade Student,
Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6

Paulette Hall
Retired Classroom Assistant, Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

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

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

The National Anthem was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, to introduce the Student Representative to the Board for the month of March.

Brian Guzman is a senior at JVJ STEM Academy, where he serves as Student Government President, Student Council President, and the Student Representative to the Board of Education. In these leadership roles, Brian advocates for his peers and works to strengthen communication between students, faculty, and district leadership, striving to represent the full student experience with integrity and responsibility.

Academically, Brian has distinguished himself as the current Valedictorian of JVJ STEM Academy. He has demonstrated consistent academic excellence throughout his high school career, earning the Superintendent Scholar Award every marking period since freshman year. Brian is also honored to be an NJ SEEDS College Scholar, a competitive academic enrichment and scholarship program that supports high-achieving students in their pursuit of higher education.

Beyond his academic achievements, Brian is an active member of the National Honor Society (NHS) and the National STEM Honor Society (NSHS), contributing to service initiatives and academic enrichment opportunities. He is also involved in the school's Environmental Engineering Club, where he collaborates with peers to explore sustainable solutions and promote environmental awareness within the school community.

Brian has committed to attending Colgate University, where he plans to major in Astrophysics. He was accepted during Early Decision before the Christmas break, marking an exciting milestone in his academic journey. Known for his natural curiosity from an early age, Brian has always been fascinated by discovery and exploration. Because space represents one of humanity's greatest unknowns, he felt drawn to study the universe more deeply. His long-standing interest in NASA and space exploration helped inspire his decision to pursue astrophysics and continue exploring the mysteries beyond our planet.

Through leadership, scholarship, and service, Brian remains dedicated to representing his classmates and contributing positively to his school community

Mrs. Carvalho asked Mr. Kennedy to memorialize Mr. Guzman's attendance in the official minutes of the meeting which was noted and Mr. Guzman's attendance is recorded in this, the official minutes of the meeting.

Mrs. Carvalho then 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 comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies were provided next to the sign in sheet)".

"The following rules shall apply:

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

"Any person in violation of the Policy will be warned, and their comments terminated if needed. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting."

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

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the first participant, Evelyn Diaz, to address the Board.

Ms. Diaz spoke about her son and his IEP's not being followed.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Katia Fajardo to address the Board.

Ms. Fajardo spoke about her son and concerns with IEP's not being followed and transportation services.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Diana Tabor to address the Board.

Ms. Tabor spoke about the deceased student and concerns with IEP's not being followed in the District.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Kason Little to address the Board.

Mr. Little spoke about deceased student and IEP's not being followed.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments.

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

Ms. Lorenz spoke about the District not following IEP's being followed.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Bianca Gambetta to address the Board.

Ms. Gambetta spoke about final exam Board Policy.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Jenniver Devia to address the Board.

Ms. Devia spoke about deceased student and IEP's not being followed.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Carlos Villavicenao to address the Board.

Mr. Villavicenao spoke about deceased student and IEP's not being followed.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments.

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

Dr. Hugelmeyer called for Interim Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Felice Salvatore, to present an overview of food service operations as part of the Board's management oversight responsibilities.

Mr. Salvatore did a presentation which was supplemented by a series of Power Point slides highlighting the mission, philosophies, goals, achievements and plans for the future of the Food and Nutrition Division of the Elizabeth Board of Education

Mr. Salvatore introduced himself and stated he was the Interim Director of the Division of Food Nutrition, and prior to that appointment, I was the accountant for the division.

Our Goal: We are dedicated to our students: health, wellbeing and ability to learn.

Our Mission: To support learning by promoting healthy eating habits, and providing well-balanced, nutritious meals, while ensuring compliance with all state and federal requirements under USDA dietary guidelines.

Our school community: We currently have 25 Elementary Schools (PreK-8) , 7 School Annexes, 3 Early Childhood Centers, 7 Main High School Buildings and 6 High School Annexes for a total of 48 operating sites.

Our District Enrollment: We are currently at 74 % Free students, 9 % Reduced and 17 % of students are on Paid status,

Our Food Services Staff:

41 Cook Managers

11 Assistant Cook Managers

182 General workers who are assigned the hours of breakfast and lunch operations

-44 Multipurpose Bus aides who, after their shift is done in the morning, are assigned to schools with heavy volumes to assist the Cook Managers with the lunch operations.

216 2 hr. lunch aides who assist with classroom feedings at the Early childhood centers and schools with Kindergarten and pre-ks in their schools. We also have some schools who prefer classroom feeding for the younger grades rather than going to the cafeteria.

What does our Food services staff do:

Review and plan meals based on the current menus.

Place daily food orders, receive those orders, maintain and rotate inventory, prepare breakfast, lunch and dinners.

Many children have different food allergies, so therefore it is imperative that we train our staff how to address those sensitive issues.

Our kitchens run like their own businesses. They have staffing, payroll, attendance, and cashiers to take payments, all while ensuring customer and teacher satisfaction.

Programs Administered in the District.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

National Breakfast Program (NBP).

After School Dinner Program (CACFP)

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Grant (FFVP) which is a grant we receive annually.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) After School Snacks Program (ASSP).

Ala Carte School Sales & Concession Stands.

Catering & Special Functions for school events. Frank Cuzzola, our assistant director, does an exceptional job preparing and assisting the cook managers, in which Mr. Cuzzola takes great pride in this service

Our lunch numbers are projected to surpass 3.5 million lunches.

This equates to almost 20,000 lunches served a day.

The District receives \$4.69 for every Free Child, \$4.29 for Reduced, and 53 cents for Paid students, plus the money we receive from the students. For pre-k to 8th the student pays \$3.00.

The high school paid students are \$3.60.

Sources of revenue:

The District derives 52% from the School Lunch Program.

Breakfast at 23 %.

That is a combined 75 % of the District's revenue is generated between our breakfast and lunch.

Our expenses.

The majority is Food at 45%,

Cafeteria salaries totaling 25% plus payroll tax, pension and benefits.

Repairing aged equipment is something we are always challenged with.

Our future initiatives.

We are constantly thinking of new and innovative ideas to improve our student participation. We want students to answer surveys and tell us what they like. We tried big mac style burgers for the students. Some things are easier with the older students, but we are always trying to come up with new ideas.

Our website is a little outdated. We are working with our IT department, who really do a great job, thank you all. We will soon be introducing a new modern look and give an opportunity for the greater school community to see what our Division is all about.

As I mentioned, kitchen upgrades and really trying to have each school run the same across the district.

I would like again to thank all of our office staff and cook managers and workers for coming tonight. It means the world to me. Without them and their hard work we could not do this every day. We are a family and act as a family and try to help one another.

Mr. Salvatore thanked

Our Elizabeth Board of Education Members board members for always supporting us.

The Business office for always keeping me in line and instructing me on how to do things right. IT department.

Athletics - thank you for always supporting us.

Mr. Eddie Dias and his team at the warehouse save us every day.

Mike Rijo and the transportation family.

The Plant & Property team for always assisting us when we need it.

Mrs. Carvalho, congratulated the Division of Food & Nutrition Services team members and the Boards appreciation for the important work they do providing healthy, nutritious food for our students.

Board of Education President Maria Carvalho began a review of the evening's Agenda

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (January 22, 2026) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (January 31st, 2026), was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report/Supplemental Personnel Report – Mrs. Carvalho began the review of the Personnel Report by stating that was a very special retirement on this evening's report, Mr. Frank Cuesta. She thanked Mr. Cuesta for his help when she joined the Board of Education in 2014. In addition, she thanked Mr. Cuesta for his hard work and dedication to the District over many years both prior to and after 2014. In his prior role as a teacher, Mr. Cuesta both taught children and molded the future of the City of Elizabeth by his outstanding work with young people.

Board Member, Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, thanked Mr. Cuesta for his help in getting her teaching career started as a substitute here in Elizabeth and for his recommendation that aided her in securing a teaching position in the Jersey City School System, where she has been teaching for twenty-three years. Board Member Illiana Chevres praised Mr. Cuesta for his support of the Elizabeth Special Education Community. Board Member Jerry Jacobs asked for a round of applause in recognition of Mr. Cuesta's forty-six years of service in his many roles within the District. In addition, he saluted him for his role as a City Councilman and his advocacy for the youth of Elizabeth. Board Member Isaias Rivera added his thanks and gratitude to Mr. Cuesta. He stated that whenever he has visited schools that principals and teachers always say, Mr. Cuesta did this, Mr. Cuesta provided that etc. Mr. Cuesta's legacy will live on in the district for years to come. Board Member Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel thanked Mr. Cuesta for welcoming her so warmly to the Board. From their initial meeting Mr. Cuesta and his friends and associates have been very supportive and helpful to her. Mrs. Clervoyant-Noel also added her thanks and gratitude for all Mr. Cuesta has given to the District. Board Member Diane Barbosa said that Mr. Cuesta has left an impression everywhere in the District and now in your last role you have made an even bigger impression. However, the biggest impression you have left us, is in our hearts. Please know that you will be loved and missed, though we will keep you close.

Schools' Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer thanked Mr. Cuesta for the wisdom he has imparted over the years. She stated that "In high school you were my Spanish Literature teacher, you were my first principal as I began my teaching career and I have learned so much from you. Thank you for everything.

Mr. Cuesta thanked everyone for their kind words. He stated that in tonight's report there is one promotion, twenty-nine changes in salary as a result of staff members obtaining their Master's Degree, or 32 credits beyond the master's degree level as well as one person obtaining their Doctorate. In addition, there are eleven transfers as a result of resignations or legal reasons plus eight appointments of which five are certified and three were non-certified positions. Mr. Cuesta added there were ten retirements and he wished all retirees well. He made special notice of Ms. Maythe Spillane, who he met thirty-five years ago when she began her career.

Tab 2a) Personnel Report/Supplemental Personnel Report were added to the Agenda.

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4a) Considerations – Dr. Hugelmeyer highlighted that among tonight's Considerations were multiple opportunities for Professional Development that District Supervisors and Directors will be pursuing in the coming weeks. The Director of Special Services and the Supervisor of Special Services attended the NJPSA/FEA Cultivating School Success Through Strong Partnerships program. In addition, the Director of Special Services and Supervisors throughout the Department attended the Annual New Jersey Women's Leadership Conference. Moreover, the Director of Special Services and a Supervisor will attend the NJSPA/FEA 9th annual Special Education Summit. The Director of Student Services and a large number of departmental staff will attend the NJSCA 22nd Annual NJSCA Spring 2026 School Counselor Conference. Elizabeth Public Schools will be represented at the Work Based Learning Network & Learn Session by the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and members of the CTE staff. Also, the Director of Early Childhood Education and several administrators and teachers will attend the Building Early Learning Latine Educators 2026 Spring Conference.

Tab 4a) Considerations was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4b) Use of Facilities -Board President Maria Carvalho stated that the Republic of Colombia used a school building to help facilitate their elections for their citizens living in our area. Furthermore, the Puerto Rican Alliance would be using a District facility for a cultural Event in May.

Tab 4b) Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4bb Use of Facilities Considerations was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4c) Field Trips were added to the Agenda.

Tab 4d) HIB Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 5 and 5a) Authorizations Report and Supplemental Authorizations Report were added to the Agenda.

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

Tab 7) Award of Contracts Report was added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Student Representative, Brian Guzman, and asked him to give his report to the community.

Good evening, members of the Board of Education, Superintendent, administrators, faculty, families, and community members.

My name is Brian Guzman, and I am honored to serve as Student Government President, Student Council President, and Student Representative for JVJ STEM Academy. It is a privilege to represent a school community that continues to grow, innovate, and establish its identity within our district.

As one of the newest high schools in Elizabeth still facing many challenges, JVJ STEM Academy continues to grow as we build our school community. Even so, our students and staff remain committed to developing strong traditions and expanding meaningful academic opportunities. Despite being a young institution, our students and staff have worked diligently to develop programs that are both rigorous and career-focused. We are proud to share that there are plans to expand the variety of Advanced Placement courses offered next year, giving students even greater access to challenging, college-level coursework.

One of our most distinctive academic pathways is the Biomedical Track. This program introduces students to careers within the biomedical sciences through hands-on laboratory coursework. As students' progress through the program, those who meet academic requirements may enroll in a certification course during their junior or senior year. Students may choose between Pharmacy Technician or EKG certification pathways, gaining the technical knowledge needed to enter the workforce upon turning eighteen.

We are proud to share that 100 percent of students enrolled in the course have successfully passed the initial certification examination. There is a second exam required for employment-level certification, which is separate from the course itself. However, the cost of this additional exam is covered, ensuring that students can pursue full certification without any out-of-pocket cost. This opportunity allows students to graduate not only with academic preparation but also with industry-recognized credentials that can lead directly to employment or further study.

Our Computer Science Track continues to evolve as well. This year marks the first time that seniors who have completed the previous three years of coursework will have the opportunity to enroll in a Cybersecurity course designed to prepare them for the CompTIA certification. This addition reflects our commitment to keeping pace with high-demand technology fields while equipping students with credentials that hold real-world value.

Beyond academics, JVJ STEM Academy places a strong emphasis on service, leadership, and community engagement. Many of these initiatives are led by Student Government along with collaborative student organizations, working together to create opportunities for service, leadership, and community engagement.

This year, students organized a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive, collecting substantial donations to assemble food boxes for families in need. Through our Winter Wonderland initiative, students visited a local senior residence to spend time with residents and spread holiday cheer. I had the opportunity to be there, and it was truly meaningful to not only see firsthand the joy on their faces but to also realize that the work we do as students actually impacts people. Student Government also organized a Toy Drive, helping provide gifts for children and families during the holiday season.

Our Coat Drive further strengthened community partnerships. After outreach efforts connected with local officials, the fire department contributed a \$500 donation to support the initiative. Student leadership has also focused on mentorship and student development. Student Government, alongside our student-athletes, hosted a workshop for underclassmen focused on leadership, responsibility, and building a positive school culture.

Additional opportunities such as our Civics Tour and the opening of a student bookstore within JVJ have further enriched our school culture and expanded opportunities for student leadership and civic engagement.

At our freshman annex, students also participate in educational field trips to institutions such as the Liberty Science Center and the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. These experiences extend learning beyond the classroom and inspire curiosity in science, technology, and innovation from the very beginning of students' high school journeys.

Although JVJ STEM Academy is a newer school, our growth is intentional and forward focused. We continue working to expand academic opportunities, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure that students graduate both academically prepared and professionally equipped for their futures.

As Student Representative, I remain committed to sharing the achievements, progress, and evolving experiences of our student body as we continue building the foundation and traditions of our school.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent JVJ STEM Academy this evening.

Board President, Maria Z. Carvalho asked for Committee Reports.

Negotiations Committee

February 26, 2026

1:30p.m. - 2:15p.m.

Attendees: Charlene Bathelus, Board Member/Chairperson of the Negotiations Committee; Maria Carvalho, Board President, Diane Barbosa, Board Member, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra Assistant School Business Administrator and Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel.

The Committee discussed ongoing negotiations with the Elizabeth Administrative and Supervisory Council, the next step of receiving salary guides from the EASC for review. A future meeting will be scheduled following the announcement of State Aid notice on March 12, 2026.

School Properties Committee

March 2, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Attendees: Iliana Chevres, Board Member/Chairperson of the School Properties Committee; Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Vice President, Charlene Bathelus, Board Member, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra, Assistant School Business Administrator, Luis Milanes, Director of Plant, Property & Equipment, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools and Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel.

The Committee reviewed an inventory of school building ages, noting that 30% are over 100 years old. A list of projects was created by the Division of Plant, Property, and Equipment and sent to the committee for review. The committee reviewed a summary of custodian staffing noting 256 appointed custodians with no vacancies. The committee requested that the list of substitutes be further analyzed between days and nights. The committee reviewed the response to the recent snowstorm highlighting the use of substitute custodians. Additionally, the need for clear guidelines for custodians and substitutes during snowstorms was discussed.

Special Education Committee Report

March 13, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Attendees: Diane Barboa, Board Member/Chairperson of the Special Education Committee; Maria Carvalho, Board President, Iliana Chevres, Board Member, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Member, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools and Nancy Morales-Frigolletto, Director of Special Services.

The Committee discussed the details concerning the upcoming Resource Fair. A total of 35 providers including behavioral health, family support, health, mentoring, nutrition, recreation, social skills and transition services. The Director of Special Services provided the committee with updates concerning the expanded transition program via community partners such as Hope Harbor. The Committee requested to discuss the transition program at the next scheduled committee meeting in April. The Committee concluded by discussing an upcoming Autism Acceptance Event scheduled for April 25th at Warinanco Park.

Finance & Accounting Committee

March 16, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson of the Education Management Committee Meeting; Maria Carvalho, Board President, Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Vice President,

Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel, Board Member, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator, Rajeev Malhotra, Assistant School Business Administrator, Frank Cuesta, Chief of Operations, Chris Brazzano, Acrisure Insurance Broker, George Mouded, Insurance Consultant, Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel and Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

The Committee reviewed the recent release of the 2026-2027 State Aid and the impact of the \$1.6 million dollar decrease and the Early Childhood Program Aid reduction of \$2.4 million dollars.

Chris Brazzano presented a summary of health benefits noting a proposed overall increase of 8% for 2026-2027. The proposed increase as compared to recent announcements of 30 plus percent in the state health benefit plan demonstrated the district's effective management of health benefit costs.

The district has achieved a balanced budget for 2026-2027 which will be presented to the board at its March meeting for submission to the County Office to approve advertisement of a public hearing during May 2026.

Legal Committee

March 19, 2026

1:00p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Attendees: Isaias Rivera, Chairperson of the Legal Committee Meeting, Maria Carvalho, Board President, Iliana Chevres, Board Member, Charlene Bathelus, Board Member, Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel, Christina DiPalo, Co-General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, School Business Administrator and Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

Christina DiPalo briefed the legal committee on an upcoming April mediation. The committee reviewed revisions to Policy 6171.3 Title I: Improving Achievement and Parent and Family Engagement as recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education. The policy will be included on the March agenda for a first reading. In addition, the committee discussed utilizing Strauss Esmay Associates as a supplemental policy review service.

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Tab 10-10l) Resolutions were added to the Agenda.

Mr. Kennedy did the first reading of Policy 6171.3 Title1 Improving Academic Achievement and Parent and Family Engagement.

Mrs. Carvalho stated the following: 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 Matters specifically, Reorganization, Interviews, Bargaining Union Contracts, Budget Review.

Legal Matters specifically, HIB Appeal Hearing, Workman's Compensation A.F., J.S., S.J.

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

A motion was made by Dr. Barbosa and seconded by Mr. Rivera to go into private session at 7:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho. - 7

Negative: None

President Carvalho stated at this time, our Superintendent of Schools has a pre-recording of our Community Updates that will be shared with our school community.

The application period for the Gifted and Talented Program started with an information session that was held on February 25th and will run to April 10th. Students in grades two (2) through four (4) are eligible to apply. The application process includes an entrance examination for grades two, three and four. Families can visit the District web site for further information.

The Panorama Family Survey has been live since February 17th and will be online through April 24th. The survey is available in multiple languages and may be accessed by scanning the QR code on the Board's announcements tab or via the internet: www.surveys.pannoramaed.com/Elizabeth/spring25family/surveys. The District wants to hear from families as your feedback is very important. Moreover, the survey can be completed in less than Five (5) minutes.

Scholarship & FAFSA Completion Nights are scheduled at Dwyer Academy on the following dates from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: April 21st and May 12th. For Scholarships, please create a GOING MERRY account prior to attending a session www.GoingMerry.com For FAFSA sessions please create a FSA ID prior to attending. Please remember to bring a laptop and tax documents. These items are a must. Counselors will be available to assist with scholarship applications. For more information, please contact Aimee Saluccio, the District's College & Career Coordinator at 908-436-6669 or saluvvioai@EPSNJ.org

High Schools Registrations April 10th -April 24th.

High School Selection 2026 Information Sessions will be held as follows:

- Dwyer Technology Academy (227 Center Street **) 4/14/2026
- Elizabeth High School-Cicarell Academy (40 Morrell Street) 4/ 9/2026
- Bollwage Finance Academy (447 Richmond Street) 4/15/2026
- Jefferson Arts Academy (27 Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza) 4/7/2026
- JVJ STEM Academy (237 (South Broad Street) 4/16/2026
- Halsey Health & Public Safety Academy (699 South Street**) 4/6/2026
- Hamilton Preparatory Academy (1003 North Broad Street**) 4/8/2026

- Edison Career & Technical Academy (625 Summer Street) 4/13/2026
- **-Address of 9th Grade Academy

The High school Junior Seminar will take place at Bollwage Finance Academy, (647 Richmond St), on Saturday April 18th, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This seminar will be open to all High School Juniors and Parents to help prepare students for the College Application Process.

Workshops Include:

- Demonstrate Interest and how to get the most out of College Fairs/College Visits
- The College Application Process and Common Application
- How to use “SCOIR” for College Planning and Building a College List
- College Essays, Personal Statement & Tutor.com
- Exploring College Majors, Career Planning, and Building a Strong Resume with Extracurriculars.
- Time Management and Stress Reduction for College applicants

2026 Elizabeth’s Citywide Earth Day Cleanup is April 22nd. The schedule is as follows:
9-10a.m. Registration, Distribution of Supplies & Departure to clean up sites.

10a.m. –12:00 noon Cleanup.

12:30 -2:00 p.m. Lunch and awards at Peterstown Community Center (418 Palmer St).

Dr. Hugelmeyer presented a slide containing Spring 2026 Assessment updates.

- Assessment – ACCESS for ELLS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLS / February 2-March 27/All Multilingual Learners (MLs).
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) / April 21 / 11th grade students and 12th grade students who have not yet taken the assessment for graduation.
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) / April 7-May 22/ Students in grades 3-8 and 11 in place of NJSLA
- Advanced Placement (AP Exams / May 4- May 15/ High School students enrolled in AP Courses
- Nj Student Learning Assessment (NJ SLA) ELA, Math, Science / April 27-May 22 Students in grades 3-8 and high school-Specific dates for grade level are on the District web site.

As part of her pre-recorded presentation Dr. Hugelmeyer showed and commented on a series of Power Point Slides that were part of the Inside EPS Newsletter that reports news from our Central Administration.

Elizabeth Public Schools recently hosted the Amistad Collaborative Forum at Chessie Dentley Roberts School No.30 which was dedicated to celebrating the district’s leadership in multicultural education and the successful implementation of the Amistad mandate. The event served both as both an informative session and a celebration of the district commitment to infusing the African American experience into the curriculum.

Elizabeth Board of Education President Maria Carvalho welcomed guests to the forum and highlighted how the district has evolved from meeting the Amistad mandate to becoming one of the state’s premier models for implementation. The forum featured guest speakers and videos from influential leaders, including New Jersey State Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Associate Director of the New Jersey Amistad Commission Trevor Kyle Melton, and DLH Consultant Dr.

Davida Lindsay-Harewood, who was introduced by EPS Director of Curriculum and Instruction Sam Etienne.

Attendees viewed several demonstrations of learning, including a social studies integration video introduced by EPS Social Studies Supervisor Bruce Elfein and a performing arts integration video introduced by EPS Performing Arts Supervisor Tracy Monterio. The evening concluded with EBOE Member Jerry Jacobs thanking panelists for their participation and acknowledging the achievements of the achievements of fifth grade students from Woodrow Wilson School No.19 who recently earned first and third-place honors at the Amistad Commissioner's' African American History Day as well as a question -and-answer segment with the panelists.

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy, Senior Gael Chica, has been selected as a recipient of the 2026 Record High and Devils Youth Foundation (DYF) Annual Scholarship Award. The DYF partners with Record High, a contemporary music education program, for an annual scholarship program. Awarding \$ 1,000 to New Jersey high school seniors demonstrate talent in music, (Vocal, Instrumental and Composition) and leadership roles within their local communities.

The City of Elizabeth in partnership with Union County, broke ground on March 9th on the Arthur Carrington Tennis and Pickleball Complex. The outdoor tennis and pickleball complex will eventually be the home of Elizabeth's varsity tennis teams. Among those participating in the groundbreaking ceremonies was former professional tennis player, Elizabeth native and complex namesake, Arthur, Art, Carrington.

EHS Winter Colorguard wins 2026 Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network Scholastic A Competition. The Elizabeth High School Winter Colorguard team, in their fifth competition of the season of the season finished in first place out of fourteen teams with a score of 80.44 in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network Scholastic A competition at Bridgewater Raritan High School.

Elizabeth Varsity Boys Track and Field members Moses Kayingo, Jaydan Cadet, Roodberry Barthelemy, and Ezekiel Penick earned All-American honors at the 2026 Nike Indoor Nationals as members of the Shuttle Hurdle Relay Team, finishing 6th overall with a time of 31.99. Competing against top programs from across the country, the team demonstrated exceptional teamwork, discipline, and athletic excellence on a national stage, representing their program with distinction.

Elizabeth Varsity Boys Track and Field had an exceptional showing at the 2026 NJSIAA Meet of Champions, with several of our competitors displaying hard work, determination, and competitive spirit in finishing among the top athletes in the state. Jaydan Cadet was the state runner up in the triple jump, Ezekiel Penick finished 7th in the state in the boy's long jump, and the 4x800 Relay team, consisting of Davian Simon, Giuseppe Quaglia, Jeangel Camacho and Matthew Herrera finished 8th overall in the state.

After an upset win over previously undefeated top seed Mia Spadavecchia of Westwood in the semifinals by way of pin, senior girls 'wrestler Valie Ramirez pinned Bayonne's Mariana Puzycki in the first period to win 138 -pound state title. Miss Ramirez is just the second state champion in school history.

Mrs. Goncalves Pestana joined the meeting via a Virtual Platform at 11:29 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Chevres and seconded by Mr. Rivera to return to public session at 11:29 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho -8

Negative: None

Mrs. Carvalho asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present the H.I.B. Report for March.

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 February 19, 2026, and through March 18, 2026, our school counselors, school based social workers and Supervisor of Anti-Bullying have completed 61 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 25 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 31 males, 37 females, 56 regular education students and 12 special education student that were the alleged victims. There were 53 males, 34 females, 69 regular education students, 14 special education students, and 4 non-students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 25 cases Founded for HIB, 2 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 1 case was Founded based on Sexual Orientation, 1 case was Founded based on Gender, 1 case was Founded based on Gender Identity & Expression, and 24 cases were Founded based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 15 skill development lessons/trainings, 50 counseling sessions, 4 behavioral interventions, 11 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 8 changes of classroom, 1 change of school placement, 8 administrative counseling sessions, 22 in school detentions, 36 parent conferences, 14 out of school suspensions, and 7 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 53 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on February 19 , 2026. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations which were reported to you at the last board meeting, have been provided for your review prior to voting.

The following were added to the Agenda

Settlement of Workers’ Comp – S.J.B.

Appointment of Computer Operations & Applications – Domingos A. Fernandes

Appointment of Coordinator of Network Cyber Security & IT Infrastructure – Joseph Griffith

Approval of Reorganization and Job Descriptions – Human Resources

Adoption of Tentative Budget 2026-2027

Ratification of Contracts with Chief of Operations, Assistant School Business Administrator and

Assistant Comptroller July 2025 - June 2026.
Ratification of Contract with Confidential Administrative Secretaries July 2025 - June 2028.
Ratification of Contract with Human Resources Confidential Secretaries July 2025 - June 2028.
Ratification of Contract with Senior Staffing Assistant July 2025 - June 2028.
Ratification of Contract with Staffing Assistants July 2025 - June 2028.
Ratification of Contract with Deputy Counsel July 2025 - June 2026.
Ratification of Contract with Associate Counsel July 2025 - June 2026.
Ratification of Contract with Confidential Legal Secretaries July 2025 - June 2028.
Ratification of Contract with Paralegal July 2025 - June 2028
Ratification of Contract with Lead Investigator July 2025 - June 2026
Ratification of Contract with Investigators July 2025 - June 2028.

Mrs. Carvalho asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (January 22, 2026)
Treasurer/Secretary's Report (December 31, 2025)
Personnel Reports
Tuition Reports
Superintendent's Reports
Authorizations Reports
Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers
Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds
Award of Contracts Report
Claims List

Resolutions:

Autism Awareness Month
National Library Week
U.C.E.S.C. 2026-2027 Coordinated Transportation Services Agreement
W.C.S.S.S.D. 2026-2027 Coordinated Transportation Services Agreement
Submission of Projects to the New Jersey Department of Education
Application to the New Jersey Department of Education – School No. 16
Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
Adoption of Tentative Budget 2026-2027
Maximum Travel Expenditures 2026-2027
Payment for Unused Sick Days
Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Approval of Early Childhood Budget for 2026-2027 School Year
Settlement of Workers' Comp – S.J.B.
Appointment of Computer Operations & Applications – Domingos A. Fernandes
Appointment of Coordinator of Network Cyber Security & IT Infrastructure – Joseph Griffith
Approval of Reorganization and Job Descriptions – Human Resources
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Ratification of Contracts with Chief of Operations, Assistant School Business Administrator and Assistant Comptroller July 2025 - June 2026.
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Ratification of Contract with Investigators July 2025 - June 2028.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rosa Moreno-Ortega and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, Mrs. Carvalho (with an abstention on Use of Facilities Tab 4b Item #2 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 every Tuesday and Thursday beginning March 3 through March 26, 2026 and Joseph Battin School No. 4 every Monday and Wednesday beginning March 4 through March 25, 2026 and Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25 every Monday through Friday beginning March 2 through March 27, 2026. Tab 4b Item #3 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 field for an Easter Egg Hunt on March 28, 2026. Tab 4b Item #4 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 gymnasium and Cafeteria for a Pajamas and Pancakes Read-A-Thon on April 11, 2026. Tab 4b Item #5 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy theater for dance rehearsal June 17, 2026, and June 18, 2026, and Dance Recital on June 20, 2026. Tab 4b Item #7 Elizabeth PAL for use of Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center pool on Saturdays April 11, 2026, through June 13, 2026. Tab 4b Item # 8 Elizabeth PAL use of Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center for basketball tournaments on May 9, May 10, June 13 and 14, 2026. Resolution Chief of Operations 2025-2026 Contract and Associate Counsel 2025-2026 Contract). Mrs. Chevres (with an abstention on Resolution Chief of Operations 2025-2026 Contract). Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega, Mrs. Clervoyant Noel (with an abstention on Use of Facilities Tab 4b Item #2 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Nicholas S. LaCorte-Peterstown School No. 3 every Tuesday and Thursday beginning March 3 through March 26, 2026 and Joseph Battin School No. 4 every Monday and Wednesday beginning March 4 through March 25, 2026 and Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25 every Monday through Friday beginning March 2 through March 27, 2026. Tab 4b Item #3 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 field for an Easter Egg Hunt on March 28, 2026. Tab 4b Item #4 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 gymnasium and Cafeteria for a Pajamas and Pancakes Read-A-Thon on April 11, 2026. Tab 4b Item #5 Elizabeth Department of Recreation use of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy theater for dance rehearsal June 17, 2026, and June 18, 2026, and Dance Recital on June 20, 2026. Tab 4b Item #7 Elizabeth PAL for use of Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center pool on Saturdays April 11, 2026, through June 13, 2026. Tab 4b Item # 8 Elizabeth PAL use of Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center for basketball tournaments on May 9, May 10, June 13 and 14, 2026. Resolution Chief of Operations 2025-2026 Contract and Associate Counsel 2025-2026 Contract). Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera - 8

Negative: none

Mr. Kennedy stated the Entire Agenda had passed.

On a motion made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho -8

Negative: none

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