

Approved March 25,2026
Board Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

January 22, 2026
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Maria Z. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the January 22, 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 January 16, 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 January 22, 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, Ms. Bathelus (arrived 5:55 p.m.), Mmes. Chevres (arrived 7:15 p.m.), Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs (virtual), Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera (arrived 7:20 p.m.), Mrs. Carvalho -9

Absent -0

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 Edward Kologi, Esq., of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

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

Monsignor João da Silva Antão, Community Leader, Namesake of Monsignor João S. Antão School No. 31

Dianna E. Savage, Food Service Worker, Madison-Monroe School No. 16

Gary Michael Foti, Retired Warehouse Driver, Plant and Property

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 Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel.

The National Anthem was played.

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Vice President Stephanie Goncalves Pestana.

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

Kayla Samantha Hernandez is a senior at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, she proudly serves as one of the eight Student Board Representatives across the Elizabeth Public School District, in addition to holding the role of Student Government President at Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy, where she champions the motto "*Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders!*" In these leadership roles, she represents the student body and works closely with school administrators and district leaders to ensure that student voices are heard, valued, and represented in decision-making. Kayla is deeply dedicated to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive school environment where all students feel seen and empowered. As she concludes her high school tenure, Kayla has remained actively involved in her school community. She is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in several clubs, including the AVID Reader's Club, Newspaper Club, Literary Art Magazine Club, Multicultural Club, and Future Educators of America (NJFEA). In addition, she serves as Vice President of the Leadership Club, where she mentors peers, models responsibility, and encourages the growth of student leadership throughout the school.

Kayla's strong commitment to academics, service, and leadership reflects her passion for making a meaningful and lasting impact during her high school journey. Through her dedication and involvement, she proudly represents Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy and her peers with integrity, responsibility, and pride.

Mrs. Carvalho asked Mr. Kennedy to memorialize Ms. Hernandez's attendance in the official minutes of the meeting which was noted and Ms. Hernandez'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, Jennifer Devia, to address the Board.

Ms. Devia spoke about children's safety at School No. 51.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

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

Ms. Lorenz spoke about concern with ICE 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 concerns with ICE in the district.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Shaniqua Garrett to address the Board.

Ms. Garrett spoke about child safety.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her 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 Director of Transportation, Mike Rijo to present an overview of transportation operations as part of the Board's management oversight responsibilities.

Mr. Rijo presented a power point of the Elizabeth Public Schools transportation department which included information on:

- Transportation Department Personnel – 116 employees
- Transportation Fleet – 59 vehicles
- Transportation 2025-2026 Budget - \$33,931,303.00
- 2025-2026 Transportation – 4,254 Students, Summer Program 736 Students
- Cameras, Video, GPS, and Routing Systems
- Child Detection Sensors Front and Rear of Bus
- Buses Equipped with Tablet for Driver Route Instruction & Student Attendance Tracking
- Accident and Incident Procedures
- School Bus Drivers and Aides Training
- Child Check Procedures

Mrs. Carvalho, Board President congratulated the transportation team members and the Board's appreciation for the important work they do keeping our students safe.

Dr. Hugelmeyer introduced former graduate from JVJ Stem Academy Class of 2025 Jeremiah La'Porte representing the NJ Department of Children and Families Youth Council will be presenting our Board with a Congressional Commendation in honor of School Board Recognition Month on behalf of U.S. House of Representatives Congresswoman LaMonica McIver and Congressman Rob Menendez, Jr.

Dr. Hugelmeyer stated "we are honored to present a framed resolution signed by Governor Phil Murphy to each of our school board members for your unwavering leadership, tireless dedication and invaluable sacrifices you make each and every day for our children. We are truly grateful."

Dr. Hugelmeyer presented a special video that represents a participation of all eight student representatives in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

At the conclusion of the video, Mrs. Carvalho asked Mr. Eric Zimmerman from the District's auditing firm Supple Clooney and Company to come forward to present the audit report for the 2024-2025 school year."

Mr. Zimmerman informed the Board that he was pleased to report that there were no findings in the Audit Report. Mr. Zimmerman stated that they had done a comprehensive review of Finance Department, and all were found in good order. In addition, a review of the District's Financial Reserves indicated that these Reserve accounts were being funded properly. Board Member Jerry Jacobs thanked Mr. Zimmerman for their work, and once again was pleased with the results

of the audit. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Jacobs thanked the Accounting and Business office staff.

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

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (December 18, 2025) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (November 30, 2025), was added to the Agenda

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

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4) Superintendent's Reports were added to the Agenda.

Tab 4a) Considerations was added to the Agenda.

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

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

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

Tab 4d) HIB Report was added to the Agenda

Tab 5) Authorizations Report was added to the Agenda.

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

Tab 7, 7a and 7b) Award of Contracts Report/Supplemental Awards of Contracts-Change Orders and 2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts Report were added to the Agenda.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced Student Representative, Kayla Samantha Hernandez, and asked her to give her report to the community.

Good evening, Superintendent, Dr. Hugelmeyer, Board Members, & Community Members: My name is Kayla Hernandez, and I am honored to serve as the Student Board Representative for Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy. I am currently a senior, and it is a privilege to represent my school and share the voices, growth, and achievements of our students. Every day, in our classrooms and hallways, I see students learning, leading, and supporting one another—bringing to life our school's motto: *"Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders."*

This year, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy has experienced significant growth—both academically and personally. You can see it in our classrooms, our hallways, and the way students show up for one another each day. Our students have demonstrated resilience, maturity, and a strong commitment to improving themselves and our school community. Whether through academics, leadership, or school involvement, students are taking greater responsibility for their futures while continuing to support one another along the way.

One major area of growth has been student leadership and initiative, especially through our fundraising efforts. Between classes and during lunch periods, students can be seen organizing churro sales twice a week, preparing for themed days such as Quarter-Zip Day, Multicultural Shirt Day, and Christmas Sweater Day, and coordinating flower arrangement sales for various holidays, along with teddy bear sales. These efforts support each class—especially the senior class—and help fund class activities, celebrations, and senior events, making this year truly unforgettable.

Our students have also demonstrated incredible dedication to the arts and cultural enrichment. In December, we proudly presented our Winter Wonderland Dance Show, where students worked tirelessly during the school day, after school, and in rehearsals that stretched into the evening to prepare performances in dance, acting, and singing. Standing on stage under bright lights, students showcased not only their talent, but also their confidence, teamwork, and pride. Building on that same passion and dedication, students are now preparing for an upcoming Black History Month show, once again honoring history and culture through the arts. On October 22nd, a group of our students had the opportunity to attend *Hamilton: The Musical* on Broadway in New York City through the Hamilton Education Program, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. To participate, students were required to submit original pieces of poetry or songwriting, pouring their voices, ideas, and creativity onto the page for the opportunity to be recognized. Sitting in a Broadway theater and watching history come alive on stage, students experienced learning in a powerful way that extended far beyond the classroom, encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression.

Academically, our students continue to work diligently toward their goals—especially our seniors, as we prepare for graduation and life beyond high school. Our teachers and staff play a vital role in supporting and motivating us, and their dedication has greatly contributed to our continued growth and success.

Overall, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy is a school where growth happens every day—growth in leadership, confidence, creativity, and unity. It happens in classrooms, on stages, in meetings, and through student-led initiatives. I am proud to represent a school that values initiative, culture, and student voice, and I look forward to continuing to share our progress. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to represent my school and my peers.

Mrs. Carvalho presented her recommendations for Standing Committees (Education Management, Finance & Accounting, Legal Committee, School Properties), Special Committees (Negotiations, Special Education Committee, Food & Nutrition & School Safety & Transportation) and Representatives (Union County Educational Serv. Commission, Union County School Boards Association, Urban School Boards and New Jersey School Boards.)

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

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

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, Interviews, Reorganization, Termination S.L.S. and Resignation J.D.

Legal Matters specifically, Settlement Agreement L.G., Workman's Compensation L.G., Award of Contracts; N.J. Cool Grant.

Contractual Matters specifically Prevention Links Survey

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

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Dr. Barbosa to go into private session at 7:08 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mrs. Carvalho. - 7

Negative: None

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Dr. Barbosa to return to public session at 9:30 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho -9

Negative: None

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

1.) Pursuant to Board Policy 5131.1, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, and New Jersey Statute 18A:37, "The results of each investigation shall be reported to the Board of Education no later than the date of the next board meeting following completion of the investigation and include: 1) Any services provided; 2) Training established; 3) Discipline imposed; or 4) Other action taken or recommended by the chief school administrator."

2.) Since our last Board of Education meeting on December 18, 2025, and through January 13, 2026, our school counselors & school based social workers have completed 46 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 16 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 17 males, 30 females, 39 regular education students and 8 special education student that were the alleged victims. There were 45 males, 21 females, 51 regular education students, 12 special education students, 1 non-student and 2 unknown students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 16 cases Founded for HIB, 2 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 2 cases were Founded based on Color, 1 case was Founded based on Sexual Orientation,

2 cases were Found based on Gender, 1 case was Found based on Gender Identity & Expression, 2 cases were Found based on a Mental, Physical or Sensory Disability and 12 cases were Found based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 12 skill development lessons/trainings, 40 counseling sessions, 2 behavioral interventions, 10 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 4 changes of classroom, 4 administrative counseling sessions, 8 in school detentions, 32 parent conferences, 10 out of school suspensions, and 10 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 33 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on December 18 , 2025. 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.

Dr. Hugelmeyer presented a pre-recorded video for our community announcements for January 2026.

We are announcing our early childhood lottery registration which will begin on February 18th and run through March 19th. We will be sending home information to all of our families in the form of a brochure announcing the registration, announcing all of the required documents, and we invite our families to access this information and be able to register their three and four-year-olds for the new school year.

As we continue on, we're going to be moving and announcing our gifted and talented program application is going to open February 25th and it will close on April 10th. We are announcing this evening the gifted and talented information sessions that will take place on February 25th at School No. 22 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This information will be posted on our web page. We're also going to have a brochure that will be mailed to all of the homes, and you will have this information readily accessible, and we certainly welcome our parents to this session to learn more about the gifted and talented program. As we continue on we are sharing our district financial aid nights flyer. As you can see we have many dates that we are announcing for both the months of January, February, March, April and May. The sessions are going to be taking place for our students and our parents at the John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. Important information with regard to financial aid as well as scholarships that are available for our students to apply. These sessions will be held in both English and Spanish.

As we continue on, I've been reminding our community how important it is to protect your health against influenza and RSV. Once again, please visit our website. We have a variety of resources that have been made available to our parents that offer information with regard to how to identify the symptoms of flu and RSV, steps that you can take to protect yourself from these illnesses and actions that you can take in order to most importantly prevent the spread to others. You can find these resources by going to our site, clicking on the menu in the upper right corner under students and families and then you will be able to select flu and RSV. It is critical that we protect our children and ensure that we protect our parents and their families from the influenza and RSV that is on the rise this year. On the slide that you see before you is the page on our website where you are able to access these resources.

As we continue on, I wanted to be able to provide an update to our families with regard to the fall 2025 New Jersey graduation proficiency assessment that was administered. And on our next slide, I want to be able to share that this assessment was administered to our 12th grade students across all of New Jersey as a retest of the graduation assessment. That is a requirement for all students graduating as part of the class of 2026. The students that participated on the NJGPA in October are either students who previously took this assessment but did not earn a graduation ready score or they may have been students who did not previously take the NJGPA but are expected to graduate as part of the class of 2026.

We had 292 students take the English Language Arts test and 534 students that took the Math test. You can see on the slide the percentage of students who passed each test. We're making this information publicly available. Please be reminded that this was a retest. So, it's not reflective of the overall performance of the class of 2026. That information will be reported in the fall of 2026.

The following were added to the Agenda

Appointment of Chief Information Officer Technology
Term of Reappointment of Superintendent Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer
Acceptance New Jersey Cool Grant Program Fund
Termination of Employment – S.L.S.
Resignation of J.D.
Authorization for Participation for School Survey with Prevention Links

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

Opening Calendar
Official and Private Minutes (December 18, 2025)
Treasurer/Secretary's Report (November 30, 2025)
Personnel Reports
Tuitions Reports
Superintendent's Reports
Authorizations Reports
Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers
Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds
Award of Contracts Report
Supplemental Award of Contracts – Change Order
2nd Supplemental Award of Contracts
Claims List

Resolutions:

Appointment of Architects

Appointment of Construction Managers
Appointment of Engineers
Appointment of Environmental Consultants
Appointment of Special Counsel
National School Counseling Week
Career and Technical Education Month
Children’s Dental Health Month
Honoring Harriet Tubman
African-American Heritage Month
Revised Appointment of Vice Principal Halsey Academy – Chrystal Rinehold
Renewal of Co-Op with Educational Services Commission of New Jersey
Renewal of Co-Op with Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
Renewal of Co-Op with Educational Data Services, Inc.
Renewal of Co-Op with Sourcewell Cooperative Pricing System
Renewal of Co-Op with OMNIA Partners Cooperative Pricing System
Renewal of Co-Op with The Interlocal Purchasing System
Renewal of Co-Op with Morris County Cooperative Pricing System
Renewal of Co-Op with NJEDGE.Net, Inc. (“NJEdge”)
Renewal of Co-Op with Union County Cooperative Pricing System
Renewal of Co-Op with State of New Jersey Contract Pricing System
Renewal of Co-Op with Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System
Capital Improvement Project – Joseph Battin School No. 4 Canopy
Capital Improvement Project – Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Academy-
Williams Field Concession
Capital Improvement Project – Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center – Pool Storage Room
Capital Improvement Project – John E. Dwyer Technology Academy - Auditorium
Capital Improvement Project – School Nos. 4, 18 and 25 - Partial Roof Replacement
Requisition for Taxes
Continue Employee Assistance Program
Acceptance of Audit Year 2024-2025
Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
Payment for Unused Sick Days
Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Renew Contract with NuEnergen LLC – Energy Management
Appointing SiteOne Landscape – Rock Salt & Ice Pellets
Appointing Clean All Tec Corp – Warehouse Equipment
Approval of Power Purchase Agreement Estoppel Certificate
Appointing A-Tech Concrete Co, Inc. (Flood Mitigation School No. 26)
Appointing Spring Athletic Companies – BSN & Sportsman
Appointment of Chief Information Officer Technology
Term of Reappointment of Superintendent Olga Hugelmeier
New Jersey Cool Grant Program
Termination of Employment – S.L.S.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Barbosa to approve the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Carvalho (with an abstention on Tab 4b item #1 Elizabeth PAL, use of the gym at Thomas Edison Academy for Indoor Sports Basketball 1/27/26 to 6/18/2026, Tab 4b Item #2 Elizabeth PAL use of Thomas Edison Academy gym for wrestling matches 1/31/26 and 2/28/26, Tab 4b Item # 4 Elizabeth Police Soccer use of Dunn Sports Center for soccer games 4/26/26, Tab 4b Item #5 Elizabeth Police Department EHS-FJC classroom Junior Police Academy 7/7/26 to 7/31/26. Mrs. Chevres (with an abstention on Tab 4a Item #2 Luis Milanés and Orlando Cornet attendance at NJ School Buildings and Grounds Association and Conference 3/22-3/25/26, Tab 5 Authorization for School Survey Prevention Links). Mrs. Clervoyant-Noel (with an abstention on Tab 4b item #1 Elizabeth PAL, use of the gym at Thomas Edison Academy for Indoor Sports Basketball 1/27/26 to 6/18/2026, Tab 4b Item #2 Elizabeth PAL use of Thomas Edison Academy gym for wrestling matches 1/31/26 and 2/28/26, Tab 4b Item # 4 Elizabeth Police Soccer use of Dunn Sports Center for soccer games 4/26/26, Tab 4b Item #5 Elizabeth Police Department EHS-FJC classroom Junior Police Academy 7/7/26 to 7/31/26. Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Moreno Ortega. Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera,) -9

Negative: none

Mr. Kennedy stated the Entire Agenda had passed.

*At the February 19, 2026 Board Meeting, a motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves-Pestana and seconded by Ms. Bathelus to rescind the vote at the January 22, 2026 Board Meeting to now reflect that Board Members Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Clervoyant-Noel and Mrs. Chevres abstained on Resolution 25-195 1000 for the Term of Reappointment of the Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer's Contract.

On a motion made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho -9

Negative: none

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