

Approved July 21st, 2026
Board Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

June 18, 2026
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Maria Z. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the June 18th, 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 June 12, 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 June 18, 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, Mrs. Chevres, (arrived at 6:17 p.m.), Mr. Jacobs (arrived at 7:07) Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho. -7

Absent -Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Clerevoyant-Noel. (2)

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 for Schools, Rafael Cortes Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Chief of Operations Frank Cuesta, Deputy Counsel, Heather Savage Ford Esq, and Co-General Counsel, Michael Simiz, Esq., of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

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

James Joseph Feehan
Retired House Director of Elizabeth High School

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 Vice-President Stephanie Goncalves Pestana.

The National Anthem was played.

Board President Maria Carvalho began her remarks by stating that before beginning the review of the agenda, there were two very special people that the Board would be honoring this evening. The Elizabeth Board of Education would like to acknowledge two individuals with Eighty-Five (85) years of combined service to our Schools, who will be retiring from the district at the end of the month. Both of these individuals lived in Elizabeth as children, attended Elizabeth Public Schools and returned to serve the School District that gave them the skills and knowledge they needed to have successful careers. The first of these two individuals that we will honor this evening has given over forty years of his life to inspire the success of the children of Elizabeth. Back in March he appeared in Tab 2a, and it was tough to see his name there. When I was elected to the Elizabeth Board of Education back in 2014, it was the result of a lot of hard work by this man and his wife. He has an incredible amount of love for this community and has served here in our schools and at the municipal level. He brought Elizabeth's Promise to our community which has helped countless students achieve their post-secondary education. At every step of the way whether its been teaching students, providing administrative leadership at the school level which helped foster positive environments for learning, hiring and help retain great individuals who helped students succeed, he has truly influenced the lives of generations of Elizabeth's children and uplifted our community. Mrs. Carvalho asked that the following be read:

Mr. Rafael Cortes Jr., an Assistant Superintendent of Schools, read the following Proclamation from the Elizabeth Board of Education in honor of Mr. Cuesta.

WHEREAS Francisco Cuesta was born July 29, 1953, in Cienfuegos, Cuba and emigrated to the United States in 1967, settling in Elizabeth where he attended Grover Cleveland Middle School and Thomas Jefferson High School in 1972, and

WHEREAS, inspired by his experience of teaching English and Spanish to his siblings and friends as well as to fellow students as a tutor in the Spanish speaking office at college, Francisco Cuesta continued his lifelong connection to education at Newark State College/Kean College of New Jersey, earning his bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in French in 1976, and

WHEREAS Francisco Cuesta began his full-time career in education at Elizabeth Public Schools in September 1977 as a Spanish teacher and member of the inaugural faculty at the newly opened Elizabeth High School, and

WHEREAS, during his 11 years as a Spanish teacher, Francisco Cuesta inspired his students to continue their education, explore their options, and give back to the community while modeling those values himself, earning a master's degree in educational administration from Kean College of New Jersey in 1987 and a law degree from Seton Hall Law School in 1991 while developing the next generation of leaders in his adopted hometown of Elizabeth, and

WHEREAS, Francisco Cuesta would find a new way to use his leadership to influence student success, serving as a Vice Principal at the first school he attended when coming to America, Grover Cleveland Middle School, as a principal at Peterstown School No. 3, Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23, and Alexander Hamilton Middle School, and as a House Director at Upper and Lower Academies of Elizabeth High School, where he would help create nurturing and caring learning environments for teaching and learning to flourish while ensuring daily activities and building operations ran smoothly, and

WHEREAS Francisco Cuesta's tenure as a school administrator was highlighted by leading Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23 to earn the Governor's School of Excellence Award in 2007, the only school in Union County, and one of only 22 in the State of New Jersey, to receive the honor for consistent improvements on standardized testing and success in serving an urban district despite high mobility and English-language learner rates, and

WHEREAS Francisco Cuesta would find yet another way to positively impact the success of the Elizabeth Public Schools learning community, becoming Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Chief of Operations, during which he demonstrated outstanding leadership in recruiting, retaining, and supporting the dedicated staff of Elizabeth Public Schools while making sure all personnel policies and operations aligned with the highest standards of compliance, and

WHEREAS, throughout his 44 years of extraordinary service to Elizabeth Public Schools, Francisco Cuesta inspired countless students to pursue their dreams, including through his philanthropic work with Elizabeth's Promise that has awarded hundreds of scholarships to help make those pursuits possible, and provided guidance and mentorship to countless faculty members who continue to shape the future leaders of Elizabeth in our schools today, some of which also received lifechanging lessons while in his classroom as students during the beginning of a remarkable career.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elizabeth Board of Education recognize and celebrate the 44 years of dedicated service of Francisco Cuesta.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the resolution be spread on the official minutes of the Elizabeth Board of Education and a copy of this resolution be presented to Francisco Cuesta with fond appreciation and well wishes of a joyous retirement.
Elizabeth, New Jersey June 18, 2026.

Dr. Hugelmeyer said that we are here tonight to celebrate an extraordinary milestone. Mr. Francisco Cuesta is retiring at the end of this month after forty-four years of unparalleled dedication to the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mr. Cuesta's impact on our school community is immeasurable, from serving as a teacher, a vice-principal, to leading multiple schools as their principal. His leadership fostered environments where both students and teachers could truly flourish. As an example of his leadership and dedication, Dr. Hugelmeyer cited his guiding School # 23 to the prestigious Governor's Award of Excellence in 2005. This was an award that only twenty-two schools received in the state of New Jersey.

The Superintendent added that beyond his profound educational impact, his legacy was deeply personal to her. He has walked with me through every stage of my professional life. He was my inspiring high school teacher who urged us to pursue higher education, explore opportunities, and to return to serve our community. Later, he became my first principal mentoring me as a young educator. It has been the honor of a lifetime to work alongside of him, as a colleague and educator. Mr. Cuesta, your life's work has changed countless lives including my own. Thank you for your service and mentorship and congratulations on building an enduring legacy and best of luck in your retirement. I sincerely hope our paths will cross again.

At the conclusion of Dr. Hugelmeyer's remarks, Mrs. Carvalho read the inscription on the award being given to Mr. Cuesta. "Awarded to Francisco Cuesta in grateful appreciation and distinguished recognition of your hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence" Elizabeth Public Schools June 18th, 2026.

City of Elizabeth, Mayor, J. Christian Bollwage, paid tribute to Mr. Cuesta's service both to the city and the Elizabeth Public Schools. Mr. Bollwage wished him the best in retirement.

Mrs. Carvalho introduced a tribute video to Mr. Cuesta.

The Board president asked if any Board Members would like to add any comments.

Mrs. Moreno-Ortega said on behalf of herself, and the community gathered here this evening she wanted to express gratitude for Mr. Cuesta's 40 plus years of dedication to the City of Elizabeth and its schools. In addition, she said you could tell how many lives he has had impacted over the years. On a personal note, she recounted being a substitute teacher at School 23 and how Mr. Cuesta helped mentor her and provided career guidance. It was on his recommendation that she went to the Jersey City School District where she has been teaching for twenty-three years. Mrs. Moreno - Ortega expressed her profound gratitude for Mr. Cuesta's help and friendship.

Board Member Mrs. Illiana Chevres thanked Mr. Cuesta for the help and support he has given to her and her family. When Mrs. Chevres and her family began their involvement in the Elizabeth community with their emphasis on helping families with children with Special Needs, Mr. Cuesta was the first to embrace them. In addition, Mrs. Chevres thanked him for assisting newly arrived immigrant families who needed help with the language and navigating different processes within their new homes. Although he may have new roles in his retirement, she applauded his work with Elizabeth Promise and all the students that this project helped and assisted as they pursued higher education. Although he may have new roles in his retirement, Mrs. Chevres hoped he would remain involved with Elizabeth while still finding time to travel and enjoy his family.

Board of Education Vice-President Stephanie Goncalves Pestana thanked Mr. Cuesta for all he has done throughout his career. She sincerely hoped that he knew his work was noticed and appreciated. Mrs. Pestana also hoped that he would remain active in the community and that in the future they can work together on projects that benefit the community.

Board Member Isaias Rivera thanked Mr. Cuesta for all he has done for the schools, the community and especially for Mr. Rivera himself. He said there is a saying that states “Retirement is when you stop living at work and start working at living”. He wished Mr. Cuesta all the best in retirement.

Board Member Diane Barbosa thanked Mr. Cuesta for being who he is. She further stated that there is a saying “it is nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice” That is what you are Mr. Cuesta. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do.

Board President Maria Carvalho stated that our second honoree has been a highly valued team member behind the scenes. As a Board member, I have had the opportunity to witness her outstanding work first-hand. She has been instrumental not only overseeing the countless amount of data that comes through the office of the Superintendent, she was also in charge of putting together for our monthly business meetings. Moreover, she has given forty years of service to the district

Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools, read the following Proclamation from the Elizabeth Board of Education in honor of Ms. Beth Krutis.

WHEREAS Elizabeth A. Krutis was born on March 22, 1962, in Elizabeth and attended Elizabeth Public Schools, including Elmora School No. 12 and Alexander Hamilton Junior High School, before becoming a member of one of the first graduating classes from Elizabeth High School in 1980, and

WHEREAS, immediately following graduation, Elizabeth A. Krutis began her professional career at Elizabeth Public Schools in July 1980 as a 12-Month Secretary/Stenographer in the Superintendent’s Office and would be assigned to the Word Processing Center which serviced over seventy-five people, including the Superintendent of Schools, and

WHEREAS, in October 1988, Elizabeth A. Krutis would be appointed as Administrative Secretary II in the Division of Secondary Instruction and Curriculum, where she was known to anticipate tasks that needed to be addressed before being asked to complete them and performed them in a well-organized and thorough manner, and

WHEREAS, in August 2006, Elizabeth A. Krutis was appointed as Administrative Secretary III in the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, a position where she continued to demonstrate exceptional attention to detail, organization, attentiveness, and courteousness, and

WHEREAS Elizabeth A. Krutis ultimately would be appointed as Confidential Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools, a position in which she would organize and maintain scheduling, prepare documents for performance evaluations and Elizabeth Board of Education

retreats, and assist with preparing the agenda for regular meetings of the Elizabeth Board of Education with outstanding skill and knowledge, and

WHEREAS, for 42 years, Elizabeth A. Krutis has served several administrative offices of Elizabeth Public Schools with great devotion and a unique commitment to excellence, having been regarded by past supervisors as the most competent and efficient secretary they have had the privilege to work with.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elizabeth Board of Education recognize and celebrate the 42 years of dedicated service of Elizabeth A. Krutis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution be spread on the official minutes of the Elizabeth Board of Education and a copy of this resolution be presented to Elizabeth A. Krutis with fond appreciation and well wishes for a joyous retirement. Elizabeth, New Jersey June 18, 2026

The Board president said thank you and congratulations to Frank Cuesta and Beth Krutis for your years of dedicated service. We wish you the very best in your future endeavors. We are very happy to have you here for what will be your final Board of Education meeting. You will be truly missed and please remember you are always welcome back to attend or speak at our meetings.

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, Julio Rojas, to address the Board.

Mr. Rojas thanked Mr. Cuesta for his years of service and especially the establishment of the Elizabeth Promise Awards.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Cecelia Nunes, to address the Board.

Ms. Nunes spoke about her concerns regarding her son's teacher.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments and asked Assistant Superintendent Cortes to meet with Mrs. Nunes.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Christina Morreira, to address the Board.

Ms. Morreira spoke about individual school performances on State mandated Testing.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Ms. Gallante spoke about her concerns regarding the need for Autism specific classrooms.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

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

Ms. Lorenz spoke about her concerns about Special Education in the District.

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.

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

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (April 23, 2026; May 7, 2026) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (April 30, 2026) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a and Tab 2b) 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 a number of Professional development requests: The Director of Early Childhood Education and members of her team will attend the NJAEYC Leadership conference, two CTE teachers will be participating in the SKILLS USA National Competition , a member of the Plant and Property team will attend an on-line seminar to help acquire his plumbing license, a teacher will attend

2026 On-line APSI African American Studies Summer Institute as well as many other teachers and staff attending seminars and summer institutes.

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.

At 6:55 p.m. Mrs Carvalho left the meeting and Board Vice President Stepanie Goncalves Pestana took charge of the meeting.

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

At 6:59, Mrs. Carvalho returned and resumed her role as presiding officer of the meeting.

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

Tab 7) Award of Contracts – Mrs. Moreno Ortega complimented the Administration for the large number of contracts on the agenda for approval. The community needs to know how much work is being to provide air conditioning and other building and safety related issues that are being addressed during the summer.

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

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

Special Education Committee

May 19, 2026

12:00p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana Board Vice-President, Diane Barbosa, Board Member; Iliana Chevres, Board Member; Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board Member; Michael Simitz, Co-General Counsel; Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent and Nancy Morales-Frigoletto, Director of Special Services.

The Special Education Committee focused on updates and planning of the district's Summer ESY Program serving approximately 780 students across multiple schools. The committee also discussed the recent Special Olympics event and the implementation of the sensory room training at School 29 and 52 together with the plan for expansion in the 2026-2027 school year. The meeting also addressed enrollment trends, particularly increases in the dual-coded bilingual and special needs students. The committee identified dates and times for a meeting with ESEPAC to discuss their 'successes and areas for further support.

Food and Nutrition Committee

May 20, 2026

12:00p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Maria Carvalho, Board President, Diane Barbosa, Committee Chairperson/Board Member; Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Isaias Rivera, Board Member; Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent, Harold Kennedy Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Felice Salvatore, Director of Food and Nutrition.

The meeting focused on a comprehensive restructuring proposal for the district's food and nutrition department presented by Felice Salvatore, Director of Food and Nutrition and Mr. Kennedy, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary. The presentation outlined scenarios to improve operations for the school's feeding operations across 48 operating sites, focusing on proper staffing and improving food presentation to increase participation in the Breakfast and Lunch programs. The restructuring proposal strives to provide better structure, training, and support to the dedicated Food Service Employees in the performance of their daily responsibilities.

School Safety and Transportation Committee

May 29, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Maria Carvalho, Board President, Stephanie Goncalves Pestana, Board Vice President, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Committee Chairperson/Board Member, Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel, Mike Rijo, Director of Transportation, Matthew Glackin, Director of Security, Richard Shaughnessy, Supervisor of Security, Harold Kennedy, Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Schools.

The School Safety and Transportation Committee reviewed the effectiveness of the security protocols in reducing incidents at the schools by examining 14 categories. The committee notes a significant decrease in vape incidents due to the implementation of various structures across main buildings and annexes. The committee also discussed the reduction in accidents involving school buses, the bus monitoring system allowing for remote retrieval and live monitoring of buses. Both Director Glackin and Director Rijo discussed staff training requirements being expanded. Supervisor Shaughnessy presented to the committee the online training modules and licensing requirements. The enhanced school safety measures, including procedures in both departments, have resulted in less incidents annually.

School Properties Committee

June 1, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Maria Carvalho, Board President, Diane Barbosa Committee Chairperson/Board Member Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent, Harold Kennedy Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Luis Milanés, Director of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The Committee continued its on-going oversight of District Capital projects. Mr. Milanés, Director of Property, Plant and Equipment, presented and reviewed a comprehensive list of projects planned and implementation timelines for the summer including:

bathroom remodels, painting projects, electrical upgrades, playground replacements, driveways, walkways, parking lot and stair repairs, roof replacement and final completion of HVAC projects.

The Committee requested an analysis of custodial protocols by Building during the summer hours.

Finance and Accounting Committee

June 17, 2026

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Attendees: Maria Carvalho, Board President, Jerry Jacobs Committee Chairperson/Board Member Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Member, Stephanie Clairvoyant-Noel, Board Member Ed Kologi, Co-General Counsel, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent, Harold Kennedy Jr., School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Rajeev Malhotra, Assistant School Business Administrator, George Mouded, Independent District Insurance Consultant, Patti Fahy, Acrisure Insurance Broker.

Patti Fahy, Acrisure Insurance Consultant and George Mouded Independent District Insurance Consultant presented results of marketing efforts for the renewal of liability lines of insurance for the 2026-2027 School Year. A proposal was presented which would increase total liability coverage insurance limits by \$10 million at a savings over the expiring insurance coverages. All other coverage areas including property, auto, cyber, workers compensation and student accident insurance would be maintained at existing levels. A savings of \$346,000 on the total renewal of the insurance package was noted. The Committee recommended presentation of the resolution for renewal of the insurance package at the June 18 Board Meeting.

Mr. Kennedy presented the results of the Request for Proposal for substitute staffing services for the 2026-2027 School Year. Three responses were received which a District committee rated in accordance with technical, management, and cost related criteria using a scoring rubric advertised in the RFP. Based on the scoring, the incumbent ESS was recommended to continue the provision of Substitute Staffing Services for the 2026-2027 School Year by the scoring committee. The Board Finance and Accounting Committee recommended presentation of the resolution for renewal of the ESS contract at the June 18 Board Meeting.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the status of air conditioning installations at leased building annexes throughout the District.

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Tab 10-10ZZ) 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, Personnel Tenure Charge Documents, Reorganization, Increment Withholding E.M.,

Legal Matters specifically, HIB Appeal, Workers Compensation specifically, C.S., S.B., M.R., K.S., and B.V.

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

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Pestana and seconded by Mr. Rivera to go into private session at 7:15 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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

The Elizabeth Public Schools and District will be closed on Friday June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

Registration for the 2026 World of Summer Programs closes on Thursday June 18th.

iPrep Academy School No.8 Lottery Registration closes on Friday June 19th.

A series of slides showed the schedule of the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies & High School Graduation/Class Award Ceremonies.

Wednesday, June 24th at 9:00 a.m.

- George Washington Academy School No. 1
- Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3
- Joseph Battin School No. 4
- Elmora School No. 12
- Benjamin Franklin School No.13
- Abraham Lincoln School No. 14
- Madison – Monroe School No. 16
- Robert Morris School No. 18
- Woodrow Wilson School No. 19
- John Marshall School No .20
- William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Sonia Sotomayor School No .25
- Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29

Thursday, June 25th at 9:00 a.m.

- Winfield Scott School No.2
- Mabel G. Holmes School No.5
- Toussaint L'Overture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6
- Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
- iPrep Academy School No. 8
- Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9
- Christopher Columbus School No.15
- Victor Mravlag School No. 21
- Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23
- Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26
- Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27
- Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No. 28
- Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

A reminder to parents that all 8th grade students must attend school on Thursday June 25th.

- High School Graduation/Class Award Ceremonies Thomas G. Dunn Sports Center.
- John E. Dwyer Technology Academy – June 24th at 8:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 7:30 a.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy – June 24th at 11:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 10:30 a.m.
- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson STEM Academy – June 24th at 2:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 1:30 p.m.
- Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy – June 24th at 5:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 4:30 p.m.
- Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy – June 25th at 8:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 7:30 a.m.
- J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy – June 25th – at 11:30 a.m. with an arrival time of 10:30 a.m.
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy – June 25th at 2:30 p.m. with an arrival time at 1:30 p.m.
- Thomas A Edison Career and Technical Academy -June 25th. At 5:30 p.m. with an arrival time of 4:30 p.m.

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 High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy English teacher Nicole Marcianti has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Chapter Advisor Distinguished Lecturer Award. This prestigious honor is presented by the National English Honor Society (NEHS) Advisory Council and the Ivy League Consortium.

Ms. Marcianti earned the accolade for her outstanding presentation, “Domestic Spaces as Psychological Prison: The Evolution of Female Entrapment from 18th century Gothic to Modern Horror.”

“Your lecture was of extremely high quality and the evaluators tasked with reviewing your work commended it highly” stated National English Honor Society Director Christopher Lockwood in his letter announcing the award. “Your dedication to the pursuit of knowledge for the sake of personal and professional growth is among the strongest we have seen, and your knowledge base is both substantial and impressive.”

Perhaps most impressively, Mercanti’s lecture will now become a permanent part of the Ivy League’s Consortiums curriculum. Ivy League institutions, It will be incorporated as a required component into both in-person and online courses across participating Ivy League institutions This summer, she will submit her abstract and recorded lecture, and she has been invited to further engage with Ivy League faculty and students through future in-person presentations, seminar discussions, and other interactive meetings.

Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson (JVJ) STEM Academy School Counselor Nicole Webb was honored by the New Jersey Association for College Admission Counseling at the 2026 NJACAC School Counselor of the Year at the NJACAC Annual Conference in Atlantic City.

The NJACAC is New Jersey’s affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, with a membership dedicated to helping students transition to college that includes school counselors, college/university admissions counselors, university administration, independent educational consultants, and retirees from the profession.

The School Counselor of the Year Award recognizes a school counselor in New Jersey who exemplifies excellence and dedication in supporting students through the transition from high school to college.

Webb has served this profession with distinction for the past ten years as a school counselor, following seven years as a science teacher, having made a tremendous impact on student success through her leadership, compassion and a student-centered approach. She has been honored twice by the Governor’s Educator of the Year program, once previously as a teacher at the K-8 level and this school year as an educational services professional at the high school level.

Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No.28 was awarded the second-place Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program’s (FFVP) Very Impressive Produce (VIP) Award by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) during a recent ceremony at the school. Michelle Murdock, Director of the FFVP for the NJDA, came to present the award and acknowledged the hard work and dedication that the school has put in implementing the FFVP. School 28 which had previously earned, the first place V.I.P. Award in 2019 will be receiving materials to create a mobile kitchen that will allow teachers to give their students a hands-on cooking experience by following one of the “Jersey Tastes” recipes shared from the FFVP that highlights a “Harvest of the Month” produce item. The FFVP provides the opportunity for school Children to try new, healthier foods and increases the fruit and vegetable consumption, ultimately leading to lifelong dietary habits.

The Elizabeth Public School athletics program has achieved an unprecedented milestone, celebrating its first-ever election to the New Jersey Cheerleading and Dance Coaches Association (NJCDCA) All-State-Team,

Varsity Cheerleading Genesis Melendez was one of 14 Athletes named to the NJCDCA 2nd team All-State Cheer and Dance Team. She was formally recognized during the NJCDCA Athletes and Scholars Awards Banquet at the Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune with Elizabeth Varsity Cheerleading Coach Sandra M. Evaristo in attendance for support.

Established in 1991, the NJCDCA All-State Team is one of the highest honors in New Jersey cheerleading. Out of hundreds of eligible athletes statewide, 30 athletes overall were recognized with All State honors.

Melendez has consistently exemplified excellence both on and off the mat. She serves as a two-year captain, is a National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) All-American nominee, an NCA Leadership Award recipient, and a NJCDCA Game Day State Champion. Her academic and civic achievements are equally as stellar as she is an Elizabeth Promise Awards scholarship recipient and the salutatorian of her graduating class at J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy.

Elizabeth High School- Frank J. Cicarell Academy cheerleaders Illeana Hernandez (Senior captain) Cheyla Wilhite sophomore) earned prestigious selections to the 2025-2026 National.

Cheerleaders Association (NCA) All-American Team, one of the highest national recognitions in the sport.

NCA and Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) are the two major governing and event companies in American Cheerleading.

Additionally, Hernandez was selected to return as an NCA/UCA Varsity Staff Member, opening the door to potential Future Career opportunities with the world-renowned cheerleading organization.

These monumental accomplishments reflect the talent, dedication and growth of the Elizabeth Athletics High School Varsity Cheerleading program.

The Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy A Cappella Choir was awarded a Silver Medal honor in the Large Vocal Music art form by category at the State Teen Arts Festival on June 1 at Middlesex College in Edison. Adjudicators rated their performance “There will be Rest and Chill Con Carne,” based on several criteria, including vocal tone (vocal placement, tone quality, diction (vocal purity, proper execution of consonants, evenness of vowels throughout the range, technique, (breathing, posture) interpretation (expression, phrasing) musicianship (intonation, artistry, presentation, poise), appropriateness of repertoire, and overall performance. Each member of the A Capella choir was awarded a certificate for their performance, and their photo will be posted on the Teen Arts Festival website along with other honorees for the next year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Dr. Barbosa to return to public session at 10:11 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

The Following items were added to the Agenda.

Application to N.J. Department of Education for Edison Cosmetology Classroom Renovation Settlement Agreement - D. W.

Settlement Agreement – L.A. and P.D. obo N.D.

Termination of Employment – M.R.A.

Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources – Daryl Palmieri

Appointment of Supervisor of Special Services – Steven R. Orozco

Mrs. Carvalho asked Superintendent Hugelmeyer to present the H.I.B. Report for June 2026

**HIB Presentation for the June Board of Education Meeting
6/18/26**

- 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 May 7, 2026, and through June 11, 2026, our school counselors, school based social workers and Supervisor of Anti-Bullying have completed 73 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 34 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 42 males, 35 females, 58 regular education students and 19 special education student that were the alleged victims. There were 66 males, 45 females, 80 regular education students, and 30 special education students and 1 non-student that were the alleged offenders. Of the 34 cases Founded for HIB, 9 cases were Founded based on Race/National Origin, 7 cases were Founded based on Color, 1 case was Founded based on Religion, 2 cases was Founded based on Sexual Orientation, 1 case was Founded based on Gender, 6 cases were Founded based on a Mental, Physical or Sensory Disability, and 20 cases were Founded based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 19 skill development lessons/trainings, 55 counseling sessions, 3 behavioral interventions, 8 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 9 changes of classroom, 1 change of school placement, 10 administrative counseling sessions, 22 in school detentions, 46 parent conferences, 2 referrals to agencies, 1 professional development training, 30 out of school suspensions and 13 cases are continuing to be monitored.
- 3.) The HIB statute further requires that at the next regularly scheduled meeting after board members receive the initial report of HIB investigations, that the Board issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the superintendent's decision pertaining to the 30 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on May 7, 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.

Welcome to the Public Hearing on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) and our Student Safety Data System Reporting for the period starting July 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.

In July 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights was signed into law as P.L. 2010, In accordance with this law, all New Jersey public school districts must designate the first full week of October of each year as a “Week of Respect.” During the Week of Respect, school districts are expected to organize activities, including but not limited to, age-appropriate instruction and opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of diversity, and tolerance.

A resolution was put before the Board in September declaring the week of October 6-10, 2025, Week of Respect. Each of our schools planned appropriate activities for this week.

In fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, two times each year between September 1 and December 31 and between January 1 and June 30, the school board shall hold a public hearing at which the Chief School Administrator will report to the Board of Education and the public any acts of violence, vandalism and harassment, intimidation and bullying which occurred during the previous reporting period.

From September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, there were 144 HIB investigations completed by appropriate school staff. Of those cases investigated, 51 were confirmed cases of HIB. The following Anti-Bullying Specialists, Anti-Bullying Specialist Alternates and Anti-Bullying Coordinator conducted these investigations:

- Jameelah Ward
- Jessica Sepulveda
- Brieem Towns
- Dinorah Mejia
- Fabi Ramos
- Michele Zuber
- Maria Brito
- Samaiyah Simpson
- Yessenia Torres
- Gabrielle Gonzalez
- Tyler Lamons
- Natasha Jean-Baptiste
- Meghan Courtney
- Sofia Verma
- Judith Lantigua
- Jada Nicholson
- Jaqueline Lupones
- Yomaira Carrero-Iglesia
- Emily Gutierrez
- Daniela Damiani
- Kathy Amato
- Cindy Lichtenstein
- Melvin Luciano
- Catherine Calderon
- Antonio Sapio
- Nagwa Elsamra
- Sarah Brown
- Jennifer Hernandez
- Kailey Monteiro
- Kenyetta Jackson
- Colleen Reynolds
- Amanda Irizarry
- Lourdes Soto
- Naima Rodriguez
- Ana Reis
- Christine Flaherty
- Johanna Ojeda
- Kerry O'Connor
- Imani Lewars
- Cindy Goncalves

- Edson Martinez
- Ishmael Medley
- Nafeesa Freeman
- Judith Valdez
- Jessica Sofranko
- Christine Rappa
- Chanise Hurst
- Daniela Grinienko
- Lauren Delgado
- Norma Cardona
- Yasmin Maher
- Desann Brown
- Carlos Gomez
- Carmen Sierra
- and
- Peter Vosseler

Of the Founded cases for HIB there were 7 incidents based on Race/National Origin, 5 incidents based on Color, 1 incident based on Religion, 5 incidents based on Sexual Orientation, 4 incidents based on Gender, 1 incident based on Gender Identity or Expression, and 30 incidents based on other targeted bases.

Of the Founded incidents, 33 incidents were verbal. 15 incidents were physical. And, 4 incidents involved an electronic communication.

For all HIB investigations, there were 40 out of school suspensions, 23 in school detentions, 19 classroom changes, 2 changes of school placement, and 10 administrative counseling sessions.

Additional services such as counseling, skill development sessions, classroom lessons, behavioral interventions, referrals for outside mental health treatment, referrals to outside agencies, and parent conferences were offered to all involved students.

Between September 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, the district provided appropriate in person and virtual HIB training to school counselors and social workers, and to new staff and support staff in the district. Additionally, all district certified staff received the 2-hour mandatory virtual HIB training, which is required every 5 school years. The district also provided extensive in person and virtual specified training to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator and to all Anti-Bullying Specialists and their alternates. Non-certificated staff also received training. New school level administrators and new HIB staff received virtual/in-person training in the HIBster reporting program.

From September 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025 there were 126 substance abuse incidents districtwide. There were 155 incidents of Violence, 21 incidents of Vandalism, 9 Weapons incidents, and 117 Other Incident Leading to Removal, which are broken down amongst our 37 schools.

Is there anyone who would like to comment?

As there were no comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed.

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

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (April 23, 2026, May 7, 2026)
Treasurer/Secretary's Report (April 30, 2026)
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:

Colombia's Independence Day
Gun Violence Awareness Month
Juneteenth Independence Day
Appointing D&H – Third Party Administrator 2026-2027
Appointing First MCO – Managed Care 2026-2027
Approval of Assistant School Business Administrator and
Assistant Comptroller Contracts 2026-2027
Approval of Associate Counsel/Home Liaison Contract 2026-2027
Approval of Deputy Counsel Contract 2026-2027
Approval of Lead Investigator Contract for 2026-2027
Approval of Employment Contracts 2026-2027 (Assistant Superintendents & BA)
Appointing Malachy Mechanical for Servicing Cafeteria Equipment
Appointing Malachy Mechanical for Servicing Refrigerators/Freezers
Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Capital Reserve
Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Maintenance Reserve
Renew Contract with Royal Printing – District Printing and Mailing Services
Renew Contract with Royal Printing – District Publications
Appointing R.P. Baking, LLC – Bread and Rolls
Appointing Metropolitan Foods-Driscoll Foods – Pizza Products
Workshop Reimbursement
Payment for Unused Sick Days
U.C.E.S.C. 2026 Chapters 192-193 Services
U.C.E.S.C. 2026 Nonpublic IDEA-B Initiative
U.C.E.S.C. 2026 Nonpublic Security Aid Program
U.C.E.S.C. 2026 Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program
U.C.E.S.C. 2026 Professional Services Agreement
U.C.E.S.C. 2026 Nonpublic Schools Textbook Program
Appointing Driscoll Foods for Ala Carte & Concession Stand Food Items
Appointing Frank M. Gargiulo & Son for Provision of Produce Items
Appointing A-1 Uniform City for Provision of Food Service Uniforms & Aprons
Adjustments of Long-Range Facilities Plan – School Nos. 9 & 16
Appointing Starlight Home Care Agency – Nursing Services
Appointing Homecare Therapies – Individual Nursing Services
Appointing Kaleidoscope Education Solutions – Speech Therapy
Appointing Jump Ahead Pediatrics – Speech Therapy
Appointing ESS Clinical, Inc. – Speech Therapy
Appointing Stepping Stones Group – Speech Therapy

Appointing Children's Specialized Hospital – Physical Occupational Therapy
 Appointing Homecare Therapies – Nursing Services (Subs & School Trips)
 Appointing Delta-T Group - Nursing Services (Subs & School Trips)
 Appointing Towne School Nurses - Nursing Services (Subs & School Trips)
 Appointing Mivila Foods – Processed Commodity Food Items
 Approval of Purchase Agreement – HP, Inc. for Laptops
 Appointing Metropolitan Foods dba Driscoll Foods – Fresh, Frozen Grocery Items
 Appointing Sportsman's & BSN for Fall Sports Equipment
 Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
 Renewing Janitorial Supply Companies
 Appointing Janitorial Supply Companies
 Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
 Property and Casualty Insurance Package 2026-2027
 Authorizing Contract with ESS Northeast LLC
 Appointment of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 Increment and Salary Withhold – E.M.M.
 Appointments Interim Senior Accountant/Payroll Manager & Interim Senior Accountant
 Stephanie Arcieri Fernandes and Jenifer Mendieta
 Settlement of Worker's Comp - C. S.
 Elizabeth A. Krutis Retirement
 Francisco Cuesta Retirement

A motion was made by Board Vice President Mrs. Goncalves Pestana seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, (with an abstention on Tab 4c Field Trip to Valenca Restaurant, Tab 7 pg. 6 Contact with Valenca Restaurant) Mrs. Carvalho (with an abstention on Use of Facilities Tab 4b Item #2 Elizabeth Police Dept., use of EHS Cicarell for Police Explorer 7/6-7/13 Tab 4b Item # 3 Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services use of George Washington School #1 and Jerome Dunn Academy School # 9 for Safe Haven Summer Program 7/8/-8/14 Tab 4b Item #4 Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services use of Nicholas Murray Butler School # 23 for SOAR program 7/6 -8/14, Tab 4b #6 Department of Health and Human Services use of EHS-Cicarell Academy for B.F.L. program 7/6-8/14 2026., Resolution 10g Approval of Employment Contract – Vito Mazza, Resolution 10i Approval of Employment Contract -Dr Jennifer Cedeno), Mrs. Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Rivera - 7

Negative: none

Mr. Kennedy stated the Entire Agenda had passed.

On a motion made by Mrs. Chevres and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Mrs. Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmmes, Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves
Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho -7

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary