Approved Board Meeting
August 20th

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

July 21, 2026
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Maria Z. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the July 21st, 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. This meeting is being held in accordance with the schedule of meetings adopted at the organizational meeting held on January 6, 2026. Adequate notice of this meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education has been provided to The Star-Ledger on January 12, 2026. Notice of the rescheduling of the meeting from July 23, 2026, to July 21, 2026, was posted on the district website on July 6, 2026. Additionally, 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 July 21, 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, Mrs. Chevres, (via Virtual Platform then arrived in person at 7:20 p.m.), Mr. Jacobs (arrived at 5:59 p.m.) Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho. -8

Absent - Mrs. Clerevoyant-Noel. (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 for Schools, Rafael Cortes Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Daryl Palmieri, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., 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:

Anthony Parenti
Retired Truck Driver/Utility Person, Warehouse, Plant and Property

Theresa S. Guevara
Retired Social Worker, Abraham Lincoln School No. 14

Mary Elizabeth Cranford
Retired Custodian, Frances C. Smith ECC School No. 50 and
George Washington Academy of Science & Engineering School No. 1

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member, Charlene Bathelus.

The National Anthem was played.

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

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, Christina Morreira, to address the Board.

Ms. Morreira spoke about schools that consistently underperform on State 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 the Special Needs Temporary Classroom Units at School No. 4.

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.

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

Mr. Little spoke about Disciplinary Policies in the District.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him 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 (June 15, and 18, 2026) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary’s Report (May 31, 2026) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a and Tab 2b) Personnel Report Dr. Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Mr. Daryl Palmieri, to provide a summary of the Personnel Report. Mr. Palmieri stated that there were eight retirements, two promotions, forty-six transfers, and thirty salary changes.
Mr. Jacobs asked for clarification on the 2026-2027 ESEA/ESSA funded positions. Dr. Hugelmeyer began by stating that the District had received the full Federal funding it was expecting. ESEA/ESSA funding under Title 1 was providing School Climate and Culture Coaches at Halsey and Edison Academies who were Social Workers who will be primarily focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism. In addition, this funding would support instructional coaches for English Language Arts and Mathematics. These coaches would be working with new teachers as well as seasoned instructors providing both support and strategies in the

classroom. Moreover, under Title ll funds would provide for Teacher Interventionists who will work one on one with students needing additional help in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. The goal is to have the best outcomes for each student. Title lll will fund a Bilingual Psychologist and a Bilingual Social Worker. Furthermore, Title lll funding will allow for a Teacher Newcomer Specialist who will focus on students new to both the country and the District and assess the needs of individuals as they enter the Elizabeth School System.

Tab 2a and Tab 2b) Personnel Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4a) Considerations – Dr. Hugelmeyer highlighted that among the items listed under Considerations were Field Trips and several of our Principles have already submitted requests for Field Trips for the 2026-2027 School year. In addition, Dr Hugelmeyer stated that some students attending summer programs would be going on trips to Union College, Kean University and Lincoln Technical Institute. This will allow students to start thinking and focusing on what Programs they might be interested in- and explore and orientate themselves to college campuses.

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 Board Member Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked for an explanation about the Authorization to apply for and accept funds from the New Jersey Department of Education from the Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Superintendent Hugelmeyer explained that these funds help pay for the out of District tuitions for students with Disabilities attending non-public schools. (In addition, fifteen (15) % of these funds are reserved to help the District partner with consultants from Rutgers University to work with students, families and school principals to reduce the school suspension rates. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega commented on the partnership with the New York Academy of Sciences, which she said would be a great opportunity for our students. Dr. Hugelmeyer added that this would be the third year of the partnership with the same schools as in the past. This partnership allows students to work side by side with scientists in their classrooms and labs.
Board Member, Charlene Bathelus inquired about the donation designated specifically to fund a Princeton Review SAT preparation course for approximately fifty (50) students from EHS – Frank J. Cicarell Academy. Dr. Hugelmeyer explained that over many years, two very generous Cicarell alumni donors, had been supporting this review course just for Cicarell Academy students. In response to a follow-up question from Mr. Jacobs that the District does offer SAT Preparation Instruction in after school programs to all High School students in the District.
Board Member Dr. Diane Barbosa, in expressing her gratitude for the donation of laundry detergent for the new laundry room at School 23 by Phillips 66, asked how others so inclined can make similar donations. Dr. Hugelmeyer explained that there are many partnerships with

individual schools and people can reach out to school principles. In addition, people can contact the Superintendent's office directly to discuss donations.
Board Member Mr. Isaias Rivera commented on the partnership with LEAD - Union College of Union County Adult Basic Skills grant from the NJ Department of Labor. He said this is a great program for parents who want to improve their English and other skills. He asked how this program is promoted to families. Dr. Hugelmeyer explained that Dr. Lyle Moseley, the Director of the program, sends fliers, announcements and notices to parents through the school's websites and District publications. President Carvalho also added that this program is also posted on Community Connect. She further noted as part of the conditions of the Grant that a plan of promotion must be in place.

-Tab 5) Authorizations Report were added to the Agenda.

Tab 6 and 6a) Finance and Accounting Report/Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report. Mr. Jacobs asked whether the amounts being paid in item 8, (Security Vestibule upgrades), were covered by a grant. Mr. Kennedy stated that they were covered by a grant.

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

Tab 7) Award of Contracts –Ms. Bathelus asked for details on the contract with the Latino Institute, Dr Hugelmeyer explained that the services provided by the Latino Institute were open to all students and families. The programs have been well received, and a definite preference has been shown for virtual sessions rather than in person workshops. In addition to the amount of people participating, data is kept on the amount on time spent at each virtual workshop. Ms. Bathelus asked that future contract summaries provide as much information as possible with which Dr. Hugelmeyer agreed to ensure it happens. Further discussion took place regarding the contract with Lost Mountain Commerce which provides license subscriptions for Texas Instrument calculators used in grades 8-12. These calculators are used in state assessments and the District is required by law to have them available and up to date with upgrades and current licenses. Dr. Hugelmeyer further explained that calculators need to be replaced often due to technical advances and new software. A District wide inventory is maintained, and calculators are replaced as needed. Ms. Bathelus raised a question regarding the Contract with Vehicle Tracking Solutions, and it was explained this was a renewal for the software that provides GPS services for Warehouse vehicles. Mr. Kennedy explained that the contract with TRI-Plex Industries is for a new body shop spray booth at Thomas A Edison Career and Technical Academy. Mr. Kennedy responded to a question from Ms. Bathelus that the contracts with Pravco, Inc were for repairs to the mechanical rooms for the pools at School 7 and the Dunn SportsCenter. He further explained that both pools are in use during the summer. Dr. Hugelmeyer replied to a question from Ms. Bathelus regarding the painting of school facilities over the summer by stating that there is a list of summer painting projects that was presented in a prior meeting. Mrs. Carvalho added that the schedule was presented at a prior meeting.
Mrs. Moreno-Ortega commented that she was pleased that the District would be partnering with Minding Your Mind as it is a great program for supporting students with mental health concerns. However, she wanted to know how schools and students are selected for participation in the program? The Superintendent replied that the program is open to all schools and students are admitted to the program by teacher referral and/or the mental health teams at their specific school. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega also was happy that the District would continue to implement MyAccess. Dr. Hugelmeyer elaborated that this digital platform allows students to submit

written work that can be reviewed and critiqued and students are given methods and strategies to improve their written work. Further praise was given to the contract with Savvas Learning which provides for professional development services with job-imbedded training for teachers across many disciplines and also gives feedback to administrators.
Dr Barbosa asked how many additional Special Education students are part of Project Search at Overlook Hospital? Dr. Hugelmeyer said she would provide that information to her.
Mr. Rivera referenced a contract on page three (3) with SEEDS Access Changes Everything and asked if a report could be provided on how many students have been positively impacted in the last school year by the partnership with this non-profit foundation.

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

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Tab 10-10s- Regarding 10 f Mr. Kennedy clarified it was five (5) out of service vehicles that were sold.

Tab 10-10s) 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, Personnel Tenure Charge Certification, Reorganization, Negotiations,

Legal Matters specifically, Workers Compensation specifically, L.E., N.M., L.O., and L.S., Policy revision.

Contract Matters specifically, Contract for Summer Cheerleading Skill Camp.

The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to go into private session at 6:21 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Dr. Barbosa to return to public session at 8:26 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

The Following items were added to the Agenda.

Reorganization Business Office Administrators
First Reading of Policy 6142.11 Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

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

HIB Presentation for the July Board of Education Meeting
7/21/26

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 June 18, 2026, and through June 25, 2026, our school counselors and school based social workers have completed 29 HIB investigations. Of these investigations 12 cases were Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There were 10 males, 22 females, 26 regular education students and 6 special education student that were the alleged victims. There were 29 males, 15 females, 36 regular education students, and 8 special education students that were the alleged offenders. Of the 12 cases Founded for HIB, 1 case was Founded based on Race/National Origin, 1 case was Founded based on Gender, 1 case was Founded based on a Mental, Physical or Sensory Disability, and 11 cases were Founded based on "Other" identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for these investigations, there were 10 skill development lessons/trainings, 22 counseling sessions, 1 behavioral intervention, 6 referrals for outpatient mental health treatment, 2 changes of classroom, 1 change of school placement, 3 administrative counseling sessions, 12 in school detentions, 22 parent conferences, 1 referral to agencies, 6 out of school suspensions and 6 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 73 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on June 18, 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.

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

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (June 15 and 18, 2026)
Treasurer/Secretary's Report (May 31, 2026)
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
Claims List

Resolutions:
Custodian of Records 2026-2027 – Harold Kennedy
Public Agency Compliance Officer 2026-2027- Harold Kennedy
Section 504 Officer – Melanie Padilla
Affirmative Action Officer 2026-2027 – Samuel Etienne
India's Independence Day
N.J.S.I.A.A. Membership 2026-2027
Accepting Purchase Offers for Out of Service Vehicles
Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
Approval of Employment Contracts 2026-2027
Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Payment for Unused Sick Days
Payment for Unused Vacation Days
Appointing Abreu Truck Service, Inc. – Large Oversized Truck Maintenance
Appointing On-Site Fleet Service – Small to Midsized Truck Maintenance
Approving Carnegie Learning – Job Embedded Math Coaching K-8
Approving Carnegie Learning – Job Embedded Math Coaching 9-12
Approving Children's Literacy Initiative - Job Embedded Coaching Literacy K-8 Bilingual
Appointing White Rock Corp. – Cosmetology Classroom Renovation – Edison Academy
Appointing Tri-Plex Industries – Auto Body Spray Booth – Edison Academy
Requisition for Taxes
Reorganization Business Office Administrators

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, Mrs. Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, (With an abstention on tab 5 pg.4 Authorization to participate in Union County Arts Festival, Tab 5 pg. 5 Contract with Union County Division of Youth and Family Services. Tab 7 pg. 14 2 Contracts with Union County Educational Services Commission.), Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho, (With an abstention on tab 4b item 1 Vito Mazza/San Vito Festival use of Dunn Sports Center Parking Lot 7/23 – 7/26 each day. Tab 7 pg. 2 Contract with Elizabeth Fire Dept, Tab7 pg. 21 Contract with Elizabeth Theater Ensemble. Resolution 10h Employment Contract with Asst. Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Cedeno, Resolution 10k Payment for Unused Vacation Days – Francisco Cuesta) -7

Negative: none

Mr. Kennedy stated the Entire Agenda had passed.

On a motion made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:
Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, Mrs. Chevres, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno Ortega, Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho - 7

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary