

Approved September 17th
Board Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

August 20, 2026
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Maria Z. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the August 20th, 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. 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 August 20, 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, (Arrived at 6:33 p.m.) Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Clerevoyant-Noel. Chevres, (via Virtual Platform), Mr. Jacobs (arrived at 6:01 p.m.) Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, (via a Virtual Platform), Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho. -9

Absent -None. (0)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, 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, 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:

Yoland Walton
Retired House Director, Halsey House of Elizabeth High School

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member, Isaias Rivera.

The National Anthem was played.

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, Mr. Samd Siddiqui, to address the Board.

Mr. Siddiqui spoke about issues with his child’s I.E.P.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments.

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

Ms. Gallante spoke about the Special Education Letters that were sent to students and their families the night before.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

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

Mr. Little spoke about protocols that need to be in place to protect students and families from I.C. E.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his 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.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer presented a series of PowerPoint slides with School and District related announcements for the month of August.

Welcome Back to School letters were sent out beginning the week of August 17th. These letters are school specific and contain important information regarding the opening of the school, procedures and protocols related to your child's school, as well as contact information and other helpful facts about the individual building.

Information was shared on how Parents/Guardians may access/contact their children's teachers via the Power School Parent Portal

Dates and Locations of High School 9th Grade Orientations were announced:
Halsey Health and safety Academy/641 South Street, 8/24/2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
Jefferson Arts Academy /27 Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, 8/25/2026 @5:30 p.m.
Hamilton Preparatory Academy/310 Cherry St.,8/25/2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
Elizabeth High School-Cicarell Academy/209 Princeton Rd, ** 8/19/2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
Edison Career & Technical Academy/625 Summer St., 8/25/2026 @10:00 a.m.
Dwyer Technology Academy/ 123 Pearl St., 8/24/2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
Bollwage Finance Academy/447 Richmond St., 9/1/2026 @ 10:010 a.m.
JVJ STEM Academy /417 Union Ave** 8/11/2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
**= address of 9th Grade Academy

Tdap/Menactra Vaccines for 2026-2027 Seventh Grade Students must be received before the First Day of School, Thursday September 10th.

Influenza Vaccines for 2026-2027 Pre-Kindergarten Students must be gotten before November 30th.

Information on the new Cell Phone/Personal Electronic Device Policy can be found on the Back-to-School Resources Page.

United for Colombia -Let's come together to help the families affected by the catastrophe in Colombia – Brisas Colombianas will be collecting donations to send to those in need.

Donation Drop-Off Location: Brisas Colombianos Morris Ave., Elizabeth NJ, Saturday & Sunday 8:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m. Items needed: Diapers, Towels, Flashlights, Batteries, leather work gloves, Personal hygiene products and other essential supplies.

The Superintendent shared the following information from Inside EPS -News from Central.

Elizabeth Public Schools was one of twenty-seven districts throughout the state to be recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education as a High Performing District through the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC). High Performing Districts are those who scored 80 percent or above (on a scale of 1-100) in all five NJQSAC areas, Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Operations, and Personnel. EPS scored an 86 for Instruction and Program, a 97 for Operations and a 100 for Fiscal Management, Governance and Personnel. EPS has been given approval for certification as a High Performing District for a period of three years.

Dr. Alice Debowski, Special Education Teacher at J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy, represented Elizabeth Public Schools at the 2026-2027 County Teacher of the Year Ceremony on August 11, 2026. The ceremony celebrated the 21 Educators selected as New Jersey County Teachers of the Year. Dr. Debowski has proudly served Elizabeth Public Schools for 11 years, bringing her experience across grade levels and content areas. Her dedication to equity, culturally responsive practice, and relationship-based instruction continues to positively impact students and the school community.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be visiting Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No.28 on Tuesday September 22 during its upcoming 2026 Farm to School and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Every year, the NJDA Farm to School and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) team, along with NJDA Division of Food and Nutrition Leadership, travel across the state during NJ Farm to School Week (the last full week of September) to visit schools and farms that have been recognized for program excellence or have truly embraced the efforts, goals, and spirit of Farm to School and/or FFVP. School No.28 has consistently been a leader in both programs. NJDA Farm to School Coordinator Nicole Broadwater and FFVP Coordinator Michelle Murdock will be among those visiting to celebrate NJ Farm to School Week. The visit will include a tour of the school's garden/outdoor classroom and learning more about the progress of their mobile kitchen project.

Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy (EHS-FJC) and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy were ranked among the best high schools in New Jersey as part of the 2026 U.S. News and World Report Best U.S. High Schools rankings. EHS-FJC was rated among the top 400 high schools in the nation in 2026 with a national ranking of No.354 and a New Jersey ranking of No.20 while Hamilton Preparatory Academy received rankings of 1,392 nationally and No. 76 in New Jersey. In coordination with North Carolina -based RTI International, a global nonprofit social science firm, U.S. News ranked approximately 18,000 public high schools out of the nearly 27,000 reviewed. EHS-FJC and Hamilton Preparatory both ranked among the top 10% of High Schools in the United States. Elizabeth Public Schools, with EHS-FJC at No. 20 and Hamilton Preparatory Academy at No.76 in New Jersey, joins Jersey City Public Schools, West Winsor-Plainsboro Regional School District and Northern Valley Regional High School District

as the only non- exclusively vocational or technology school districts to have multiple high schools ranked in the top 100 in the state.

Dr. Hugelmeyer turned the presentation over to Assistant Superintendent Daryl Palmieri to give an Operations Update

Mr. Palmieri began his update by providing information on what services the Transportation Dept had been providing over the summer months:

916 students were transported over 40 Bus Routes. Of those 916 students, 378 were part of the City Soars Program, 299 participated in ESY programs, 175 were part of the Promotion/Retention programs offered within the district, and 64 individuals were brought to and from City Recreation Dept., activities. Additional services were provided to the EPS Athletic Program, Junior Police Academy, the Jefferson Park Ministries, and Camp Israel.

Food and Nutrition Services -Summer Food Service Program – 112,585 total meals were served at 77 locations – 26 schools-Summer Feeding State Program/41 City Camps Daily meals through the vended program/ and 10 Sports Camps. Elizabeth Athletics Programming.

Security Personnel – Summer Compliance Readiness Professional Development-Emergency Response Training-CPR/AED Certification; Stop the Bleed Training: Narcan Administration Training. Threat Awareness Training-Security Drill Refresher Training and Initial Security Drill Training for New Security – Procedures & De-Escalation – District security/safety manual procedures and practices, plus deescalation strategies. Vector online training included employee safety and compliance topics.

Plant, Property and Equipment. – 31 Total Projects-Building System Upgrades-HVAC upgrades, electrical capacity upgrades, generator replacement. Interior Upgrades – Flooring renovation at various sites including offices, classrooms, auditoriums, playgrounds. Safety and Security Upgrades – Vestibules, cameras, fire escapes, lockers. Exterior Upgrades – Roofs. Sample project Upgrades. 5 Security Vestibule Locations, 3 Schools with Partial Roof Replacement, 4 Expansion of camera upgrades at various locations 8 Emergency Response Lockers.

Technology- Technology Infrastructure Improvements – Outfitting ten new classrooms with video, audio, interactive boards, Intermediate Distribution Frames, and student computers. Modernizing auditoriums at School 7 and Jefferson Academy to include lighting and sound system; Network /wireless setup at School 4 Annex; Renovation of Main Office networks. PK3/4 iPad refresh; Kindergarten laptop preparation; 1,700 ineth-grade HP Laptops. Phone -line replacement and upgrade; expansion of Raptor Alert System; Expansion of Auto-Cad lab Thomas Edison CTE Academy.

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 37 appointments of which 18 were certified personnel and 19 people were appointed to non-certified positions. In addition, there were 151 transfers which

were made for a variety of reasons, but all were made to ensure that the positions and talent matched the needs of the District as it opens the 2026-2027 School Year. Moreover, there were 29 promotions among the Food Service, Custodial and Support staff, which reflected internal advancement opportunities. Also noted were 22 Changes of Salary which reflect graduate degrees earned, Credits completed above a master's degree, and Doctoral Degree attainment. Mr. Palmieri also noted there was 1 Reappointment, 13 resignations and 2 retirements. Board President Carvalho commented that the promotions and reorganization of the Food Services Dept was a huge accomplishment and thanked Mr. Palmieri and Mr. Salvatore on having put this new plan together.

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

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4a-4c) Considerations – Dr. Hugelmeyer highlighted that among the items listed under Considerations were requests from the Bilingual/ESL Department to attend an event at the Rutgers Center for Literacy Development, a request from the Director of Human Resources to go to the conference of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators, and a request from the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for members of the CTE staff to attend the Career Tech Vision Conference in December. The Superintendent also noted that 12 Field Trip requests had already been filed for the upcoming school year. Board Member Mrs. Moreno-Ortega complimented the school principals for all their hard work and in particular in recognizing field trips are an important part of a total education.

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 /Tab 5a) Authorizations Report/Supplemental Authorizations Report. Dr. Hugelmeyer highlighted several items listed in the Authorizations tabs: 1) Numerous schools will be authorized to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program offered by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. 2) The Elizabeth High School Varsity Football team and the Girls Flag Team participated in halftime activities of the New York Jets/Tampa Bay Buccaneers game on August 14, 2026. 3) The Elizabeth Marching Band will be participating in several US Bands competitions during the Fall Seasons. 4) Approval of participating in the New Jersey Department of Health's, Nurse's Aide in Long Term Care Facilities for the Admiral Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy Nursing Assistant program. 5) Memorandum of Understanding with Kean University's High School Partnerships program for Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy. Board Member Jerry Jacobs also brought attention to the partnership between the Elizabeth Public Schools and Garden State eSports which allows scholastic gaming that develops student engagement, student technical skills and possible scholarship opportunities.

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

Tab 6 and 6a) Finance and Accounting Report/Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report - Mr. Kennedy confirmed that payments to Honeywell in item 6 were expenses covered by the NJ Cool Grant program

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

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

Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.

Tab 10-10z) 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, J.R., Personnel Report, Reorganization,

Legal Matters specifically, Workers Compensation specifically K.S. and S.M.

Contract Matters specifically, CSA, Contract for Food Service Fall Equipment.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to go into private session at 6:40 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Goncalves Pestana and seconded by Ms. Bathelus, to return to public session at 8:12 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: None

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

HIB Presentation for the August Board of Education Meeting
8/20/26

- 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 July 21, 2026, and through July 31, 2026, our social worker has completed 1 summer school HIB investigation. This investigation was Founded for HIB as per New Jersey law. There was 1 female regular education student that was the alleged victim. There was 1 female regular education student that was the alleged offender. This case was Founded for HIB based on “Other” identifying characteristics. Of the services provided and actions taken for this investigation, there was 1 counseling session, 1 parent conference, and 1 out of school suspension.
- 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 29 cases that were reported to you at the last Board meeting on July 21, 2026. In order for you to do so, the investigation summaries from those investigations which were reported to you at the last board meeting have been provided for your review prior to voting.

The Following items were added to the Agenda.
Resolution of Workers Compensation Claim K.S.
Resolution Transfer of Principal J.B.
Resolution Transfer of Principal J.M.
Personnel Report 2b.
Resolution -Contract with Singer Equipment Company
Resolution Reorganization Department of Food and Nutrition Services.
Second Reading of Policy 6142.11 Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy.

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

Opening Calendar
Official and Private Minutes (July 21, 2026)
Treasurer/Secretary’s Report (June 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 Reports
Claims List

Resolutions:

National Hispanic Heritage Month
Curriculum Repository Inventory 2026-2027 School Year
Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2026-2030) School Years
Programs of Study, High School Offerings, High School Strand and Sequence
2026-2027 School Year
Textbooks 2026-2027 School Year
Adoption of Revised Policy 6142.11 - Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy
U.C.E.S.C. 2026-2027 ESEA/ESSA Title I Agreement
Approval of Submission of EBOE Mitchell Building HVAC Upgrades
Capital Improvement Project – Dwyer Academy
Approval of Employment Contract – Superintendent of Schools 2026-2030
Capital Improvement Project – Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
Remembrance of Yoland Walton
Accepting Purchase Offers – Interlocal Vehicle Sales Agreement with HCESC
Approving Durham School Services for Student Athletes Transportation
Approving Renewal of Annual Extension of Villani Bus Co. for School Transportation
Approving Renewal of Annual Extension of Shore Vans for School Transportation
Approving Renewal of Annual Extension of D&Z Transportation for School Transportation
Approving Renewal of Annual Extension of D&Z Transportation for Hillcrest Transportation
Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds
Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds
Approving Children’s Literacy Initiative, Inc. for Job Embedded Coaching
Approving D & Z Signature Transportation for Student Transportation
Approving Shore Vans for Student Transportation
Approving Villani Bus Co. for Student Transportation
Approving J & J Transportation for Student Transportation
NJ Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC)
Appointing Singer Equipment Co. – Cafeteria Paper Products
Settlement Workers’ Comp – K.S.
Transfer of Principal John Byrne to Interim Staff Development Coordinator
Transfer of Principal James Mondesir to J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy
Reorganization – Department Food & Nutrition Services

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Board Vice President Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to approve the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, (with an abstention on Tab 4 No.3 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority use of John E Dwyer Media Center 8/23 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Mrs. Chevres, (with an abstention on Tab 7 pgs. 5 and 6 -5 Separate Contracts with Prevention Links , Resolution 10i Approval of Contract Superintendent) Mrs. Clervoyant-Noel with an abstention on Tab 4 No 1 City of Elizabeth Dept. of Recreation use of School No. 23 on 8/22 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Movie Night, Tab 4b No. 2 City of Elizabeth Dept of Health and Human Services use of Dunn Sports Center on 9/25 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and 9/26 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Resolution 10i Approval of Contract Superintendent.) Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Carvalho, with an abstention on Tab 4 No 1 City of Elizabeth Dept. of Recreation use of School No. 23 on 8/22 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Movie Night, Tab 4b No. 2 City of Elizabeth Dept of Health and

Human Services use of Dunn Sports Center on 9/25 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and 9/26 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Resolution 10i Approval of Contract -Superintendent -9

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 8:17 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary