

ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Every Child, Achieving Excellence

Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

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

November 1, 2022

Ms. Maria E. Lorenz
103 Murray Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202
opra+request-36171-1d41b4e3@requests.opramachine.com

Dear Ms. Lorenz:

I am in receipt of your request for records pursuant to the State's Open Public Records Act ("OPRA").

1. Retrievable records for your request "including but not limited to reports, notes, summaries, minutes and list of meeting dates for the following committees established by the board of education from July 1, 2022 to Present (Educational, Legal, Finance and Accounting, School Properties, Clinical, Negotiations, Special Education)" are attached.
2. Retrievable records for you request "Names of members of the SEPAC" are attached. Your request for "a list of meeting dates" is denied as the District does not maintain retrievable records that are responsive to your request.
3. Your request for "minutes, reports, summaries, and notes from the meeting in October 2022" is denied as the District does not maintain retrievable records that are responsive to your request.

Sincerely,



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

Office of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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October 20, 2022

ELIZABETH BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

School Properties Committee Meeting - Thursday, October 6 (12:30pm -1:30pm)

The attendees included Maria Carvalho, Board Member/Chairperson, Iliana Chevres, Board Vice-President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Jonathan Williams, Co-General Counsel, Judge Malone, Co-General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, Jr., School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent.

The committee discussed the availability of a property located on South Broad Street. This matter will be discussed during Executive Session at this month's board meeting.

The second item that was discussed included the availability to lease property located on East Jersey Street. This site would serve as an annex and provide 12 additional classrooms.

Negotiations Committee - Thursday, October 6 (4:30pm -6:30pm)

The attendees included Jerry Jacobs, Board Member/Chairperson, Diane Barbosa, Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Member, Jonathan Williams, Co-General Counsel, Judge Malone, Co-General Counsel, Michael Oppicchi, Attorney, Dieter Lerch, Consultant, Harold Kennedy, Jr., School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent.

A summary of the Mediation session held on Wednesday; October 5th was provided to the committee.

Education Management Committee – Tuesday, October 11 (4:45pm -7:05pm)

The attendees included Charlene Bathelus-Dorgely, Board Member/Chairperson, Diane Barbosa, Board Member, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Stephanie Goncalves-Pestana, Board Member, Jonathan Williams, Co-General Counsel, Judge Malone, Co-General Counsel, Harold Kennedy, Jr., School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent.

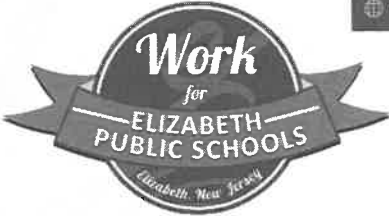
The committee discussed the following agenda items:

Open positions throughout the district per department/category were reviewed and discussed.

Open Positions:	School:	Open Positions
PRE-K		0
GEN ED		Total : 1
ENGLISH		Total : 8
MATH		Total: 5
SCIENCE		Total: 4
SOCIAL STUDIES		Total: 2
SPECIAL EDUCATION		Total: 20
BILINGUAL / ESL		Total: 22
WORLD LANGUAGE		Total: 2
ART / MUSIC / DRAMA / DANCE		Total: 10
PHYS ED		Total: 6
SPECIAL PROJECTS		Total: 17
GUIDANCE & SOCIAL WORKERS		No openings
TECHNOLOGY		No openings
CTE		Total= 8

The committee suggested posting a flyer on all social media pages in an effort to recruit candidates.

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- Social Studies • Dance • Commercial Foods
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- Engineering • Bilingual/ESL • Mathematics
- Special Education • Science • Art • Music
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- Library Media Specialist • Speech Lang. Specialist
- Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant

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Chief of Operations
Frank Cuesta | P: 908.436.5050 | E: CuestaFr@epsnj.org

Staffing Assistant
Janet Martinez | P: 908.436.5050 | E: jmartinez@epsnj.org

▪ Updates on COVID Communication Plan

A Virtual Instructional Plan was submitted on September 30th to NJDOE and approved and is posted on the district's website.

In April 2020, Governor Murphy signed A-3904 into law (P.L.2020, c.27, or "Chapter 27"), which in part requires each school district to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction (Plan) to the New Jersey Department of Education (Department). This law provides for the continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure by permitting school districts to utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

The Department of Education has issued "Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year (SY)," which includes a checklist identifying components that must be included in an LEA's Plan.

By September 30, 2022, each Chief School Administrator must submit the LEA's Plan for the 2022- 2023 school year, approved by their district board of education, and the completed checklist to their county office of education. School districts must also post its Plan on their website.

Transportation and Bus Drivers; How many buses do we have? Do we need to purchase any new buses? Any issues with busing routes?

We are anticipating receiving 2 new buses in a couple of weeks. A total of 25 new buses are currently part of our fleet. No additional buses are needed at this time. The only challenge is Durham Transportation Company. They currently have three contracted routes and they have not been on time to pick up/drop off. In addition, there are currently open positions for a bus driver and five substitute drivers.

Any issues with Pre-K? Any issues with Elementary 1-5? Any issues with Middle School 6-8? Any issues with Freshmen High School 9? Any issues with High School 10-12?

The two main issues that principals have raised in our meetings include teacher attendance and vaping.

Teacher Attendance: Total of 60 teachers have taken 5 or more days to date.

Vaping - 628 cases in 2021-2022

The Committee has requested information regarding the cost of the individual test and the total cost expended in 2021-2022. The Committee expressed the concern with the impact on instructional time.

Food Services

On October 26th –Students classified as Free/Reduced or paid at the present time. If the application is not submitted, student status is converted to paid. Current classification dated back to three years.

Incentive to continue to receive P-EBT cards – families that were classified as Free/Reduced were provided a summer benefit in the amount of \$391 per eligible student.

Updates regarding Future Football Games

Currently there are two games that remain on the schedule. A Home game scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 15th at 12:30p.m. and one away game scheduled for October 21st.

Electronic Ticketing was implemented at the October 4th game. We pay 2% of the ticket sales.

Upcoming interviews for Principals, VPs, Supervisors, Directors, etc.

Currently, we have an open position for a Supervisor of Security. Dates and times proposed for interviews are being finalized.

Residency issues or upcoming hearings

Currently, we do not have a request for any residency appeals. Investigators have been working on residency verification of students in all schools.

Current initiatives for the mental health of the school community? (Staff; Students)

During our committee meeting, the district website was shared including services for parents, students and staff. The Interim Commissioner of Education had requested that our district showcase our district website dedicated to mental health services last month.

The committee proposed that a letter to be sent to employees advising with regard to how they can avail themselves of the services.

Recently Gov. Murphy announced a new initiative that replaces School-Linked Services (SLS). Today, the SLS network is limited in scope and reach. Of the nearly 1.4 million students in the New Jersey public school system, only 25,000-30,000 students (approximately 2% of the student population) are supported by the state's School Linked Services Program annually. While the existing network provides meaningful support to many of the students it serves, it has not comprehensively adopted evidence-based approaches in use in many other parts of the United States, is not poised to be scalable to all school districts in the state, and – due to inconsistent operating models – it is not positioned to maximize federal funding streams.

The newly designed NJ Statewide Student Support Service (NJ4S) Network will modernize and expand New Jersey's School Linked Services to increase its reach far beyond the 2% of New Jersey students that are currently engaged, while ensuring continuity of supports; will directly engage youth, parents, and community leaders in design and implementation of regional programming; will be formally integrated with other major youth-serving systems throughout the state; and will maximize resources through the use of an innovative statewide hub and spoke model. These reforms are timed to be fully operational for the 2023-2024 school year.

This announcement is significant because it impacts EPS negatively. Currently the YES program is funded by SLS through RWJ/Trinitas Hospital. The services are onsite at both Jefferson Academy and Halsey Academy. RWJ/Trinitas Hospital was already informed that this is the last year of their funding.

The Committee stated that this was an opportunity to make our Senators aware of the impact on the direct services to our students. Our students will not travel to a "hub", they need to have access onsite.

Updates on the company handling substitutes? How is the hiring process going? Pros & Cons?

ESS has been able to cover the 131 long term leaves/vacancies that we currently have. In addition, they are covering paraprofessionals (Personal & 504 Assistants). ESS is currently hiring to ensure that each school has two full time permanent substitutes.

Updates on the implementation of student representation policy?

Each school has submitted their applications. Two high schools submitted two applicant's names. A committee met this past week and have submitted the final applicant's name. On Monday, October 17th, all of the seven student representatives will meet with the Student Government President and the representatives from each class (9th/10th/11th). The meeting will be facilitated by a high school principal and teacher advisor. Students will determine the schedule for the meetings and which high school will be represented first. The expectation is for the student representative to read a report at the board meeting that summarizes the activities currently taking place in their high school. The Superintendent will be meeting with the Student Representative to provide an orientation in preparation for the October 20th board meeting.

Any grants the district is working on? What for?

Currently, we are managing the ESSER and American Rescue Plan funding that totals \$67 million.

Safety and security concerns?

A summary of the incident reports is shared electronically with the board every two weeks.

The committee requested the statistics by individual school. The current system provides the incidents by date order only. A summary will be provided with the categories and the number of incidents. Categories such as Vaping will be highlighted for the purpose of tracking the data.

Please add anything else that pertains to educational management.

Board Member Diana Barbosa suggested that the ASSA Student Enrollment Report be provided to the board. The October 15th enrollment report determines the funding that the district will receive in 2023-2024.

Special Education Committee – Friday, October 14 (12:30pm -2:30pm)

The attendees included Diane Barbosa, Board Member/Chairperson, Rosa Moreno-Ortega, Board President, Iliana Chevres Board Vice-President, Jerry Jacobs, Board Member, Board Member, Jonathan Williams, Co-General Counsel, Judge Malone, Co-General Counsel, Richard Flaum, Counsel, Diana Pinto-Gomez, Director of Special Services, Harold Kennedy, Jr., School Business Administrator and Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent.

The committee discussed the following agenda items:

Legal Matters

The Committee was briefed by our Special Education counsel on various matters.

Enrollment

Dr. Pinto-Gomez reported on the current enrollment of students in the district and at the Out of District schools. The committee discussed the increase in enrollment in comparison to previous years.

Classification Rate

Currently, our district has a 12.4% classification rate. The committee requested an analysis of all large urban school districts.

E-SEPAC

The Executive Committee will be meeting for a formal training on October 18th

Academic/Enrichment Opportunities

The Committee discussed the program offerings for the 2022-2023 school year. Currently, the Basketball Clinic is taking place at School No. 30 on Saturdays and in the Spring, a soccer clinic will be offered.

The Division of Athletics is offering sports clinics that include swimming for our Special Needs students in Grades 1-4 and 5-8.

Lastly, an Academic Growth program will be launched beginning October 25th in Grades K-12.

Parent Engagement

The Committee reviewed resources currently available on our webpage and suggested launching a community calendar to announce the monthly activities.

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

School	Parents/Legal Guardian
School 3	Diana Dias
School 7	Ina Silva
School 18	Victoria Ramirez
School 30	Yunanki Santana Reyes
AOF/John Byrne	Carmen Nunez
School 13	Yvette Sepulveda-Rosado
School 14	Emily Ann Gonzalez
OOD	Mirian Mendez
School 8	Sandra Cordovi
School 15	Yessy Goldate
School 19	Norma de Jesus
School 16	Danesha L. Ivory
School 27	Martha Seda
School 6	Patricia Cacoilo
92-STEM	Sharlama E. Brooks
School 22	Sheila Cuevas
School 29	Rosalia DaSilva
School 2	Silvia Rosales
School 28	Liannor Pereira
School 20	Kristeen McGee
Schhol 87 Edison	Jessica Casco
School 80 Hamilton	Vanessa Clarke
School 09	Reba Feliciano
School 26	Maria Santillan
School Dwyer	Candida Almeida
School Dwyer	Maria Loja
School T. Jefferson	Alyssa Montesino
School 12	Elena Plaza