

The Annual Organization meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, to swear in the newly elected Board Members.

Mr. DeSanto said we do not have a quorum to begin tonight's meeting so the new Board members need to be sworn in before the meeting in order to have a quorum.

Members Sworn In: Mr. DeSanto administered the Oath of Office to Kimberly Codispoti, Joseph Pagano, and Diamaris Rios who took their seats on the Board for a term of three years.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Ms. Codispoti Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Ms. Morello

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Vassallo, Acting Board Secretary and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. Absent: Mrs. Haley, Interim Board Secretary.

Temporary Chairman: Dr. Guccio serving as temporary chairperson, announced that in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice and posting of this meeting to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, the Atlantic City Press, City of Vineland Clerk and the Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Dr. Guccio recommended the Adoption of a Resolution appointing Earl Vassallo as Acting Board Secretary and Acting Business Administrator for the period of January 7, 2015 through January 9, 2015.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. DeWinne, to approve the Adoption of a Resolution appointing Earl Vassallo as Acting Board Secretary and Acting Business Administrator for the period of January 7, 2015 through January 9, 2015. All Members voted "yes."

Mr. DeSanto reviewed the procedure for the election of Board President and Vice President. He said Dr. Guccio will entertain nominations for the office of President.

Mr. DeSanto said the nomination will not need a second. In the event that there is more than one person nominated, the second person will be presented with no second. He said the Board will vote in order of the nominations.

Dr. Gruccio called for nominations for the office of President of the Board.

Mr. Jennings nominated Mr. English for President of the Board.

There were no other nominations for President of the Board.

Dr. Gruccio closed nominations for President of the Board and asked for a vote to be taken for the nominee, Mr. English.

All Members voted “yes” for Mr. Jennings’ nomination of Mr. English for President of the Board of Education. The motion carried.

Mr. English assumed the chair and presided over the meeting.

Mr. English requested nominations for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Jennings nominated Ms. Rios for Vice President of the Board.

There were no other nominations for Vice President of the Board.

Mr. English closed nominations for Vice President of the Board and asked for a vote to be taken for the nominee, Ms. Rios.

All Members voted “yes” for Mr. Jennings’ nomination of Ms. Rios for Vice President of the Board of Education. The motion carried.

Ms. Rios won the nomination for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Public Comment
on Agenda Items: None.

Public Comments: None

Board Member

Comments: Mr. Jennings congratulated the newly elected Board members. He is sure they will be a very good team to lead us through 2015.

Mr. Pagano echoed Mr. Jennings's comments and looks forward to the upcoming year. He believes Mr. English and Ms. Rios are the proper people to be where they are sitting and thinks this will be a very progressive year.

Ms. Codispodi echoed the comments made by Mr. Jennings and Mr. Pagano and looks forward to working with everyone. She thinks Ms. Rios and Mr. English are the most appropriate to lead the Board and looks forward to a productive year.

Mr. DeWinne congratulated Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. He wished Ms. Rios good luck on being elected Vice President. Mr. DeWinne said in his opinion Mr. English is the hardest working Board member and the seat is appropriately his. Mr. DeWinne said as a Board we all look forward to working together. He said we have to remember why we are up here and the systems that are in place. Mr. DeWinne said hopefully things will be well for Dr. Gruccio in her three years.

Mr. DiGiorgio echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and looks forward to working with everyone. He said we will have some challenges this year but with challenges comes opportunity and he looks forward to embracing those challenges.

Ms. Rios thanked the community for all their support, the district for all their hard work and the Superintendent for working with us. She thanked God along with her family. Ms. Rios said now that she has a child she is more passionate about being on the Vineland Board of Education. She thanked the Board for their support on the Vice Presidency seat. Ms. Rios congratulated Mr. English on his new leadership position.

Mr. DeWinne sends his condolences to Mrs. Haley and her family on the loss of her father.

Mr. English also sends his condolences to Mrs. Haley and her family. He said Mrs. Haley is an outstanding employee and brings a lot of energy to this district.

Mr. English said Mrs. Haley was apologizing because she could not attend tonight's meeting. He said that says something about the type of employee we have and his deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Haley and her family at such a difficult time. Mr. English welcomed Ms. Codispoti and Mr. Pagano to the Vineland Board of Education. He said when he was elected he thought he was going to come in and change the world because he thought change was needed. Mr. English said with change there is a process and rules. He encouraged the newly elected Board members to talk to the Superintendent, Solicitor and fellow Board members. Mr. English said he looks forward to working with everyone this year. He said we are here for what is best for the students who are the future of Vineland. Mr. English said he is honored to have Ms. Rios sitting next to him and thinks we are going to get things done rather well. He was told by a customer of his to follow the five P's and you cannot go wrong. The five P's consist of Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance. Mr. English said we can make things happen in a more timely fashion. He said CCTS is Communication, Collaboration, plus Transparency equals Success. Mr. English said that he always preaches the communication factor. He said the collaboration piece is going to come with a new perspective to this Board. Transparency will be the key to this because he loves to listen and has learned to respect the chain of command. Mr. English said the Board does not run the day to day operations of the district but we definitely control policy making and can do our best to make sure everyone is as happy as possible. He said Dr. Gruccio has been renewed for three years and has put together our Strategic Plan, which is a great tool that this district has been yearning for a long time. He said with cooperation this district is going to see changes in the right direction. Mr. English thanked Mr. DeWinne because he would not be here if he did not push him to run for the Board. He also thanked his wife, son and daughter for understanding that this is what he chooses to do. Mr. English wants his family to know that they will always be number one but unfortunately this is a position that he chose to sit in and will continue to serve it as well as he can. He thanked everyone for their continued support.

Dr. Gruccio congratulated and welcomed the new Board members. She congratulated Ms. Rios and Mr. English. Dr. Gruccio said she is thrilled about working with everyone on this Board. She said on behalf of central office we are very excited about a new year and fresh beginning working together for the students.

Dr. Gruccio thanked everyone for taking the time to run and committing their time to the district and students. She said that she looks forward to 2015.

The meeting adjourned by voice vote at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Vassallo
Acting Board Secretary

EV:df

