

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 8, 2014 at 6:10 p.m.

Flag Salute:

Temporary Chairman: Dr. Gruccio, 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, Clerk City of Vineland, Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Members Sworn In: Mr. DeSanto administered the Oath of Office to Richard Baruffi, Brian DeWinne, Scott English who took their seats on the Board for a term of three years and Thomas Ulrich who took his seat for a term of one year.

Roll Call: The following members were present: Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Medio, Ms. Morello, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich.

Dr. Gruccio welcomed back Mr. English and Mr. Ulrich along with Mr. Baruffi and Mr. DeWinne. She said she looks forward to working with all of them. Dr. Gruccio wished everyone a happy healthy new year and wished Mr. Sbrana a happy birthday.

Mr. DeSanto reviewed the procedure for the election of Board President and Vice President. He said Dr. Gruccio will entertain nominations for the office. A nomination will be made from the floor and no second is necessary. Mr. DeSanto said if more than one person is nominated Dr. Gruccio will take a vote on the first nominee. In the event that the first nominee receives five or more votes that nominee becomes President or Vice President. If the nominee does not receive five or more votes the next nominee is voted on.

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

President: Mr. Ulrich nominated Ms. Rios for President of the Board.

Mr. Baruffi nominated Mr. Medio 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 first nominee, Ms. Rios.

All Members voted “yes” for Mr. Ulrich’s nomination of Ms. Rios for President of the Board of Education except Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Medio and Ms. Morello who voted “no.” The motion did not carry.

All Members voted “yes” for Mr. Baruffi’s nomination of Mr. Medio for President of the Board of Education except Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Ulrich and Ms. Rios who voted “no.”

Mr. Medio won the nomination of President of the Board of Education.

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

Vice President:

Ms. Rios nominated Mr. English for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. DiGiorgio nominated Ms. Morello for Vice President of the Board of Education.

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

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

All Members voted “yes” for Ms. Rios nomination of Mr. English for Vice President of the Board of Education except Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Medio and Ms. Morello who voted “no.”

Mr. English won the nomination for Vice President of the Board of Education.

Public Comments:

On Agenda Items:

None.

Mr. Schectman said according to our bylaws at the beginning of the year it is customary for the Board President to appoint committees as well as a delegate and alternate delegate to the NJ School Boards Association. He asked if any board members would like to submit their interest to Mr. Medio for his consideration and appointment at a later time.

Recommendations:

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments: Mr. Ulrich congratulated everyone who was elected. He thanked all his supporters who have come out for the last seven years. Mr. Ulrich said he will do the best that he can to bring the straight forward common sense approach to the district and focus his concerns on safety.

Mr. DeWinne said it has been around three years that he served on the board. He said that he took a step aside to focus some time on family and to coach. Mr. DeWinne said he is back and looks forward to it. He thanked Dr. Mounier for serving and thinks he was a very intelligent fair man. He congratulated a former teammate of his for being named the Morgan State University football coach. Mr. DeWinne thanked everyone who voted whether it was for him or not. He thanked his family for being here tonight. Mr. DeWinne said he has two children in the district that he is very proud of for achieving high level successful grades at school. He said he works as a team member and looks at each vote independently and fairly.

Ms. Rios welcomed and congratulated the newly elected/re-elected board members and said she looks forward to working with them. She thanked all those who supported her for the presidency and congratulated Mr. Medio and Mr. English on their positions.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he has always considered himself to be open minded and objective. He has approached decision making in a businesslike manner and has always been considerate of the human element by doing his best to separate emotions and to keep them out of decision making. Mr. DiGiorgio said sometimes you have to think outside the box. He believes we currently have a good check and balance in place and looks forward to working with everyone on this board to move this district forward.

Mr. Jennings congratulated the newly elected/re-elected board members along with Mr. Medio and Mr. English on their presidency positions. He said Ms. Rios deserves credit for pursuing the board presidency. Mr. Jennings said he looks forward to working with everyone during the next two years. He thanked Ms. Nardi and Mr. Callavini for the video they did in regards to school bus boarding. Mr. Jennings said he hopes we continue to move forward.

Ms. Morello welcomed the newly elected/re-elected board members. She congratulated the leadership and looks forward to a year of hard work. Ms. Morello said this will be a tough budget year but collectively we can do a great job and continue to do our best in moving the district forward.

Mr. Baruffi congratulated Mr. Medio and Mr. English and said that he is looking forward to working with everyone. He thanked his wife, daughter and cousin, Joe Baruffi the Mayor of Minotola, for coming tonight.

Mr. English welcomed the new board members and looks forward to working with them. He also welcomed Mr. Ulrich back and thanked Ms. Rios for nominating him for the vice president position. Mr. English said he considers himself to be a very honest and fair person who cares what is best for our students. He said when you are consistent and honest it means a lot. Mr. English said his goal as vice president is to learn as much as he can and hopefully have the courage to sit in the seat that Mr. Medio is in. He said it all comes down to our policies/procedures and doing what is right every day. Mr. English said when Mr. Medio is not available his ultimate goal is to make himself available as much as possible to give advice and guidance. He would like to see better communication from everyone top to bottom and looks forward to a good year.

Mr. Medio said we have a budget that will probably have a shortfall. He said next week he would like Dr. Gruccio to give the board a preliminary report on what our shortfall is in several scenarios such as flat funding or a reduction in funding. Mr. Medio said all the board members are vocal and he thinks with the new board we will be looking at things in different ways.

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert G. Schectman  
Board Secretary