

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Jennings and Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Pagano.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. English announced that in compliance with the New Jersey meeting law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, the Atlantic City Press, The Grapevine, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag salute:

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentations: Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Joseph Camardo, Principal of Barse Elementary School, to recognize a couple of his students who participated in a contest with the Vineland Public Library.

Mr. Camardo said tonight we are recognizing two Barse Elementary School students for winning the Vineland Public Library Bookmark Contest. He thanked Maureen Riley, Librarian, for her dedication to our students and for encouraging reading. Mr. Camardo spoke about the importance of reading. He recognized Yohanna Bolington first grade winner who could not be present tonight because she moved to Delaware. Mr. Camardo introduced Landon Gentile-Adamson the fourth grade winner.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Wayne Weaver, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, and Mr. John Knoop, Cumberland County Engineer, to discuss the easement project at Veterans Memorial School.

Mr. Weaver said with us this evening is John Knoop who is from the Cumberland County Engineering Department to discuss a storm water management drain line that will require a granting of an easement through the Veterans Memorial School property.

Mr. Knoop presented the easement project to the Board.

Mr. DeWinne asked what type of construction is prevented with this easement. Mr. Knoop said it will be in the deed that we will be required to relocate that pipe in the event you build a structure. He said if a parking lot is built that pipe can exist. Mr. DeWinne asked if it would save the county money if we put the pipe in on an angle. Mr. Knoop said he could do that and will work with the Board in anyway. Mr. DeWinne asked if an effort was made to contact the owner of the property across the street. Mr. Knoop said that is his next step.

Mr. English asked if there will be no cost to the school district. Mr. Knoop said that is correct. Mr. English asked if there was a timeframe for this. Mr. Knoop said we have most of the materials and weather permitting we will do this as fast as we can.

Dr. Gruccio asked Mr. DeSanto what needs to be done to move this forward for a vote on next week's agenda.

Mr. DeSanto strongly advised the Board that they cannot approve this with any loose ends. He believes that there needs to be an agreement and legal description on the easement for the Board to approve. Mr. DeSanto said the next step would be to finalize all the loose ends and then the approval can take place.

Mr. Weaver said we looked at a shorter route for the pipe but the problem is there will be saw cutting into the asphalt, which will be difficult when school is in session. He said it is in pervious areas now and he thinks it is the best route to take as far as doing the project when school is in session.

Mr. English asked Mr. Knoop if this can be made a priority to be complete by spring. Mr. Knoop said we will do the best we can. Mr. English thanked Mr. Jennings who is the chair of the facilities committee for bringing this to the attention of Dr. Gruccio and the committee in a timely fashion.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Geoff Ashton, Director of Camelot Education, and Mr. Matt Kass, Vice President of Operations, to present an update on the Cunningham Academy.

Mr. Kass said from the onset of this mission he has felt nothing but collaboration from the educators in this town and thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Mr. Ashton said as of today, January 13<sup>th</sup>, we have 33 students on roll. He said attendance is going up and students want to come to school. Mr. Ashton said to date we have two suspensions for substance abuse and no police or ambulance calls. He said the loyalty piece is all built in to what we are able to do. Mr. Ashton said we have two students with truancy concerns and are in danger of failing for the year. He said we continue to work with them. Mr. Ashton said Camelot wants to make sure that all students are prepared for secondary education and advancement. He said the uniform policy is non-negotiable and mandatory. Mr. Ashton introduced the students that were present tonight.

Ms. Acosta said you can see that these young men and women are so proud of themselves. She said to hear students say “this school is so different” and “I am getting something out of this” really warms her heart. Ms. Acosta urged the students to please keep up the good work and know that you have an entire community behind you.

Mr. English said he along with his fellow Board members noticed the passion and are proud of what we are hearing and seeing.

Dr. Gruccio said January is School Board Recognition month and we would like to take a moment to thank each of you on the Board. She said it takes a real commitment and a lot of time to be a Board member. Dr. Gruccio said on behalf of Central Office Administration we want to thank you for your dedication to our students and staff and commitment to provide the best public education we can for our students. Central Office Administration presented a certificate to each of the Board members.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, to present a brief explanation on the monthly HIB Report for the new Board members.

**Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance** – Mr. Frangipani explained the HIB Report. Ms. Rios asked if the first two initials are students. Mr. Frangipani said they are adults.

Mr. English asked Mr. Frangipani to give a brief statement on the discipline referrals and suspensions that happened at the high school this week. He said next week the high school administration was invited to present a more detailed report.

Mr. Frangipani reviewed the large areas from last year to this year at the high school.

Ms. Acosta expressed her concern in regards to the increase of students not being in class. Mr. Frangipani said this is something that Dr. McCann and I have to figure out. He said regular hall sweeps could be a remedy. Ms. Acosta questioned what has changed from last year to this year that has negatively impacted the students desire to be in class. She would like information on what may be causing this dramatic increase. Mr. Frangipani said he and Dr. Gruccio will be meeting with high school students next week to review this and find out where the issues are.

Ms. Rios thinks the high school level is the age where students should be preparing for the real world. She said if we have rules and regulations and the students are not cooperating then we should become stricter. Mr. Frangipani said he agrees and the school needs to address this.

Mr. DeWinne said maybe our friends at Camelot can teach us something.

Mr. Bordley asked if the students that were late versus not attending class are combined. Mr. Frangipani said some of the lates are built in.

Mr. English said the way the Board can make change is through stricter policies. He said next week Dr. McCann will be here and we will get this on the right path.

Student Liaison

Report:

Dr. Gruccio said our student liaison is not present tonight and will be here next week to give us a report.

Comments by

Board Solicitor:

None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – Mr. Bordley thanked Dr. Rossi for taking time out of his schedule to meet with him.

## 2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

- 2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.
- 2.2 **Partnership Affiliation Agreement between the Vineland Board of Education and Fairleigh Dickinson University** – No discussion.
- 2.3 **Bus Evacuations** – No discussion.
- 2.4 **New Jersey Safe Routes to School Program Resolution** – No discussion.
- 2.5 **College Readiness Now Services Memorandum of Understanding** – No discussion.
- 2.6 **First Reading of following Bylaws/Policies/Regulations- Policy 1110, Policy 1240, Regulation 1240, Policy 3221, Regulation 3221, Policy 3222, Regulation 3222, Policy 3223, Regulation 3223, Policy 3224, Regulation 3224, Policy 3431.1, Policy 4431.1, Policy 5516** – No discussion.

## 3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 3.1.1 **Resolution to pursue the transfer of ownership of Almond Road Preschool from the State of New Jersey to the Vineland Board of Education** – Mr. English asked for a brief explanation of this. Mr. Weaver said in order to move this to the next step we will need support of a bill to change the law at the state house to allow us to pursue the process to purchase the building. He said there is an existing cap in place at a half million dollars so Senator Van Drew would have to sponsor the bill to move forward at the state house level to get this adjusted.

Ms. Rios said she hopes everything goes well.

Dr. Guccio said it has been a very tedious long process and hopefully this will help us in moving forward.

Mr. Sbrana asked if we are talking about the preschool building only. Dr. Guccio said correct. Mr. Sbrana asked if the property would be subdivided and we would only own that piece. Mr. English said correct. Mr. Sbrana asked what happens to the rest of the property. Mr. DeSanto said there is a body called the State House Commission and they have the authority to approve leases for \$500,000 or less. He said this cap is what the commission has the authority to do.

Mr. DeSanto said what they are trying to do is remove this cap and put into place a more appropriate kind of procedure where the state could function without having the legislature involved.

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** - No discussion.
- 4.2 **Board Secretary/Treasurers Report for November 2015** – No discussion.
- 4.3 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Submission of following grants - a. Family Friendly Center Grant for Sabater School, b. Sustainable Jersey for School Certifications Program** – No discussion.
- 4.5 **Acceptance of the following funds- a. Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Rebate Program** – No discussion.
- 4.6 **Cumberland County Technical Education Center Contract** – No discussion.
- 4.7 **Donation of three Dell 7010 Computers** – No discussion.
- 4.8 **U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing & Finance, Inc. Bid Award** – Mr. DeWinne asked if this is all tied to the purchasing of buses or do we have the ability to use this for what we want. Ms. Haley said it is for the acquisition of 13 school buses.
- 4.9 **Telecommunications Utility Cost Reductions Agreement** – Ms. Rios asked if this could have been done internally through our technology department. Mr. Frey said it is to assess every phone system that has ever been put in these buildings since the beginning of time. He said it is a really big job.  
  
Mr. English asked Mr. Frey if he has an estimated idea on the savings. Mr. Frey said he has seen big numbers.
- 4.10 **Pro-Computer Service, L.L.C. Contract extension** – No discussion.
- 4.11 **Camelot Educations Services, L.L.C. Contract renewal** – No discussion.
- 4.12 **Submission of 2016 No Child Left Behind Grant** – No discussion.

**2. REGULAR AGENDA**

b. Items proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member- None.

Review of bills incurred during November 2015 – None.

Public Comments – None.

Committee Reports: Mr. DeWinne distributed the Finance Committee minutes to the Board. He said a date needs to be scheduled for the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. English passed out the tentative Committee list. He said if anyone has any questions or comments to email him accordingly. Mr. English said we are keeping finance up and rolling because we are in the middle of the budget process and he thought it would be smoother that way. He said he does not have to attend every committee meeting and anyone can sit in on a committee in his place. Mr. English said maybe around June we could flip flop the committee members around so you are not locked into the same committee for a year. He said in June he may have someone else take over as chair of the Finance Committee since this is Mr. DeWinne's last term on the Board. Mr. English encouraged the new Board members to read the bylaws because they are very informative. Mr. English said that Mr. Bordley was very interested in being the Board Delegate and he wished him luck with that position.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

