

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 14, 2015 at 8:29 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Interim 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, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag salute:

Resolution:

Mrs. Haley read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If pending/anticipated litigation the matter is the Rasmussen, Sammons and Schectman litigation and the All Kids First Provider Contract. Any matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. Any matter involving the employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is the terms and conditions of employment of two support staff members. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity or person with respect to said discussion.

Motion: Upon motion by Mr. DiGiorgio, seconded by Ms. Morello, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Special  
Presentations: None.

**Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance** – Ms. Morello said she spoke with Mr. Frangipani who is going to get some clarifying information about two listings, which will be shared with everyone.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked when the offense involves striking an individual; typically the sanction would be counseling and three days of in-school suspension. Mr. Frangipani said it depends on the background of the case.

Ms. Rios asked if there should be individual reports on Veterans Memorial School. Mr. Frangipani said he will revise the report so it clearly states what each offender received.

Comments by  
Board Solicitor: None.

Public Comments  
On Agenda Items: None.

Items for Review:  
A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – No discussion.

1.2 **Contract for Helen G. Haley Business Admin. /Board Secretary** – Ms. Morello asked if this contract has been approved by the County Superintendent. Dr. Gruccio responded yes.

1.3 **Contract for Scott A. Musterel Asst. Business Admin. /Asst. Board Secretary** – Ms. Morello asked if this contract has been approved by the County Superintendent. Dr. Gruccio said the County Superintendent reviewed the contract but said he did not need to approve it.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

- 2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.
- 2.2 **Bus Evacuation Drills** – No discussion.
- 2.3 **University of the Arts Affiliation Agreement** – No discussion.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None.

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – Mrs. Haley said this will be available at next week’s meeting.

Ms. Morello said since we will be fully staffed with a Business Administrator and Assistant Business Administrator can we look forward to having these things available. Mrs. Haley said that is her goal. Ms. Morello asked if they can be available by March. Mrs. Haley said she hopes to have them sooner.

- 4.2 **Placement of Special Education Students** – Ms. Morello asked if we are on target with what was budgeted and anticipated in terms of special education students. Ms. Godlewski, Special Education Supervisor, responded yes.

- 4.3 **All Surface Asphalt Paving Change Order #1** – Mr. DeWinne asked if this was a typo. Mrs. Haley said no the actual amount is a credit change order for \$6,445, which is a combination of a \$5,000 contingency amount that was not needed and changes to the contract by the contractor in the amount of \$1,445. Ms. Morello asked where that money goes. Mrs. Haley said it goes back into fund 12, which are our capital projects.

Mr. English said he believes this was the area near the track. He said it was an outstanding job that was so needed. Mr. Weaver said we had a contingency and a credit for \$1000 that was a swap for the guard rail, which we decided to eliminate and extend the sidewalk. Mr. English said we have had some serious rain situations the last couple weeks and this seems to be doing what it was designed to do. Mr. Weaver said yes it is all tied in to the underground system. Mr. DeWinne asked if has kept the track dry. Mr. Weaver responded yes it is working well.

- 4.4 **Cumberland County Tech. Education Center Contract** – Ms. Morello asked if we are in line with what we anticipated in terms of this tuition. Dr. Gruccio responded yes. Ms. Morello asked if we are maxed out with the number of students the Vo-Tech will take from our district. Dr. Gruccio said as far as she knows any student who wanted to attend the Vo-Tech was able to.

Mr. English hopes we are in some type of conversation with the Cumberland County Vo-Tech as to what they plan on doing with our students. Dr. Gruccio said she spoke with the Superintendent last week and she is putting together a presentation for either February or March with an update on the plan.

- 4.5 **Agreement with Pro Computer Service LLC (PCS)** – Ms. Morello asked if this will continue to be paid on a monthly basis or a lump sum at the beginning of the contract. Mr. Frey said on a monthly basis. Ms. Morello asked what happens if you want to terminate the contract. Mr. DeWinne said the contract states it can be terminated in 30 days with written notice.

Mr. English asked how long this company has been with the district. Mr. Frey said since mid-year last year. Mr. English asked if a productivity chart is being done. Mr. Frey said yes.

Ms. Morello asked Mr. Frey if we are tracking the percentage of time that things are functioning versus work orders. Mr. Frey said we have been tracking that for quite some time.

Mr. DeWinne said we should align our terms with the fiscal school year ending in case there are increases.

- 4.6 **Edison Township Transportation Agreement** - Mr. DiGiorgio asked if this agreement is for one of our students who is in need of some type of educational service and is being transported. Ms. Godlewski said we are paying for busing service from the treatment center to where ever the child is attending school in the Edison area. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are responsible for other costs associate with this. Ms. Godlewski said the educational costs.

Mr. English asked if this is parental choice. Ms. Godlewski responded no an agency putting the child there.

- 4.7 **Mennies School Kohl's Grant** – Mr. English said it appears that the same schools are receiving the grants. Dr. Gruccio said we do ask if there is a grant available to share it with each other. She said we discuss this at the Superintendent's meeting.

Mr. English asked if we have exhausted all areas in trying to bring a grant writer back. Dr. Gruccio said the position was cut for financial reasons. Ms. Morello said this is something that we can discuss at the Board retreat. She commented what a wonderful job our teaching staff does with the Pride grants, which they apply for through the NJ Education Association.

- 4.8 **IDEIA Carryover Funds Grant** – Dr. Gruccio said the backup material for this grant will be on next week’s agenda because Ms. Godlewski is still waiting for numbers from one of the private providers.

## 2. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REGULAR AGENDA:

- a. **Secretary’s Report – October 2014** – Mrs. Haley said the Board will have the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Report at the next meeting.
- b. **Treasurer’s Report – October 2014** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if these are items that will be reconciled monthly when we are fully staffed. Mrs. Haley responded yes she plans on getting caught up.

### 7.B Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Testing (PARCC) Ms. Morello**

Ms. Morello said she sent Dr. Gruccio an email asking for dates and times for different grade levels in response to community concern. She said PARCC testing is something new and there are lots of rumors floating around in the community. Ms. Morello said that Dr. Gruccio has asked Mr. Frey to present a little thumbnail sketch. Dr. Gruccio said there was a lot of discussion last week on this at the county roundtable with all Superintendents. She said because this is new there is tension all over. Dr. Gruccio complimented Mrs. DeBello and Mr. Frey on the work they have done on this. She said hopefully what Mr. Frey presents will explain some questions you may have and put people a little more at ease. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if staff is brought in for their input. Dr. Gruccio said this is something we have to do but we have provided training, which we are ahead of the game with. Ms. Morello said it costs more to do this on paper. Mr. Frey said we got involved in the field test and learned a lot from that experience. He said it is a team approach and many people were involved with the process. Mr. Frey presented an overview on PARCC testing. Mr. English asked if there was documentation as to how Vineland did compared to a sister district. Mr. Frey said they did not report any data back to us. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if each class will be taking the test at the same time. Mr. Frey said grades 4 through 8 with 9, 10, and 11 having specific things to do. Ms. Morello said we have to be conscious rolling into the 2015-2016 budget as to what this testing will cost. She asked what we are doing to reach out to parents so they know their child should be in school that day. Mr. Frey said this is no different than NJASK so they are doing the same things that they did during that time.

Ms. Acosta asked if students have had access to Chromebooks or whatever they are going use to be tested on. Mr. Frey said we have tried to give the students as much experience as possible. Ms. Acosta asked if the students have access to this technology on a daily basis. Mr. Frey said it changes across the board.

Review of Bills: Mr. English said we are in January but the bills are for November 2014. Mrs. Haley said she could have put December on but she was trying to stay with the routine.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. English announced the following committee chairs:

Policy & Personnel – Ms. Rios  
Finance & Budget – Mr. DeWinne  
Curriculum – Ms. Morello  
Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Jennings  
Transportation – Mr. Callavini will present quarterly report.  
Preschool Liaison – Ms. Morello  
NJSBA Delegate Assembly Representative – Mr. Pagano

Mr. English said that he would like Dr. Gruccio to give updates on the county roundtable meetings.

Mr. English asked Mr. DeSanto in order to help bring the new Board members up to speed can Mr. English give up his spot at a committee meeting so they can attend. Mr. DeSanto said any Board member can be appointed to fill in for the Board President on any meeting he is not able to attend.

Ms. Rios said she likes the idea of the quarterly transportation report given in public because then there is clarity and everyone is aware as to what is going on. Dr. Gruccio said if you have a specific concern that you want Mr. Callavini to put in his presentation to please let us know.

New Business: Mr. DeWinne requested for the temperature in the Board room to be lowered for the next meeting.

Ms. Rios asked if we have a confirmed Board retreat date. Mr. English said we need to establish a date in February. A poll was taken and the majority of the Board favored a week night.

Mr. English asked Mr. DeSanto to explain the Board retreat process.

Mr. DeSanto said the Superintendent is a participant at all Board meetings and is required to provide input to the Board on all educational matters. He said historically the meeting agenda, protocols and invitees have always been a collaborative effort between the Board President and Superintendent. Mr. DeSanto said if Mr. English would like to get input from his fellow Board members on what the agenda should be and who should be invited that is his prerogative. Mr. English said he is very comfortable with NJ School Boards and if they can facilitate this for us it will help us stay on the task. He said that he does want to know what his fellow Board members would like to discuss. Mr. DeSanto said in order to make sure that you are not having a meeting by email please submit the comments to Mr. English not by an email exchange.

Ms. Rios said that she respects the Strategic Planning Goals that were set forth and respects Ms. Nicolosi's comments but this is a Board retreat. Ms. Morello said the goals that come out of this goal setting meeting will be the goals that we put together and present to the Superintendent to develop her evaluation. Mr. English said there is a time and place for a presentation from someone from the state. He said we can have some type of presentation if we see that we need one. Mr. English said we have to set a date for the Board retreat and asked if any Board member has a problem with the retreat being facilitated by NJ School Boards Association. Ms. Morello said that she does not have a problem with it at all but suggested for, Ms. Zoerb the NJSBA representative, to send everyone an attachment that explains the process. Mr. English said he will get some dates from the NJ School Boards Association.

Old Business: Ms. Morello said she sent Dr. Gruccio an email about the open positions and asked Ms. Rios to follow up with this at the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Interim Board Secretary

HGH:df



