

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 5:06 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. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, 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: Students from Durand Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Greco, Principal, of Durand Elementary School was in attendance.

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 collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body discussion of VEA negotiations. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. The matter is the All Kids First Provider Contract. Any matters 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 transfer of an elementary principal.

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

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Galan to present a proposed student trip.

Ms. Galan, Assistant Principal of Vineland High School North, introduced Ms. Serrano and Ms. Gonzalez, Spanish Teachers and Ms. Nurnberger, French teacher to discuss a proposed student trip to Spain and France in the Spring of 2016.

Mr. DeWinne asked how many students have shown interest to go on this trip. Ms. Nurnberger said when she mentioned it to her French classes every student was interested. Ms. Galan said she also had students interested.

Ms. Morello asked if a chaperone goes on the excursions. Ms. Nurnberger said the entire group would go. Ms. Morello thinks this is wonderful that students are given more than a year to get organized and money together for this trip.

Mr. English asked who pays for a security guard and nurse to go on the trip. Ms. Nurnberger said she was going to have a meeting with central administration to discuss who covers those costs and said there are some options that can be worked into the student costs. Mr. English asked if there is a limit on how many students attend. Ms. Nurnberger said as long as we have six students the trip is on.

Ms. Acosta asked if the trip will be offered to all high school students in grades 9 through 12. Ms. Serrano said the trip is being offered to students who are taking the language.

Ms. Morello asked if there are provisions for discipline and GPA issues. Ms. Nurnberger responded yes.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, to present the results of the 2015 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report one.

Mr. Frangipani said tonight we are going to review the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report (HIB), which is our first report for this year covering September 2014 through January 2015. He explained the definition of HIB and said it can be one incident or many incidents. He said a HIB also has to disrupt the learning of the student or the school. Mr. Frangipani reviewed the results of HIB Report one with the Board.

Ms. Morello asked if we have the Positive Behavior in Schools (PBIS) Program currently in some of our schools. Mr. Frangipani said it is in some of our elementary schools and he would like to bring it to the high school.

Mr. DeSanto said one of the problematic areas that the administration faces is that often time's parents of the so called victim want to know what happened to the aggressor. He said unfortunately we cannot disclose that information because information regarding all children is confidential. Mr. DeSanto said all that can be reported in our standardized letters is "appropriate consequences were given."

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the minutes were approved from December 3, 2014, December 10, 2014 and January 7, 2015. All Members voted "yes" except for Ms. Acosta who "abstained" on all minutes, Ms. Morello who voted "yes" on all minutes but the January 7th minutes she "abstained" and Ms. Rios who voted "yes" on all minutes except the December 3rd work session she "abstained."

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month October of 2014, which are in agreement were approved as submitted and on file in the Minute Book, and the Board approved its monthly certification of budgetary major account fund status and the Board Secretary's monthly certification as on file with the Secretary. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

At 5:47 p.m. the Board recessed into executive session.

The meeting resumed at 6:35 p.m.

Dr. Guccio said it was brought to her attention that there are ladies and gentlemen from the high school who wish to speak about the impact of an eight period day. She wanted to clarify that this is something that is currently in the discussion phase with the Vineland Education Association (VEA) and there is nothing set in stone as to the impact that day will have. Dr. Guccio said there will not be a mandatory lunch. She said we cannot engage in a conversation regarding the details of the eight period day because it is still being discussed with the union.

Mr. English said the Board members hear the public comments but do not run the day to day operations of the district. He said the Board addresses the concerns with the Superintendent.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. DeWinne, seconded by Ms. Morello, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,457,722.46).

Emergent Item(s)

(with prior approval)

Dr. Guccio recommended the approval of the dedication of the Vineland High School South Gym.

Mr. English said he received a letter today from the Vineland High School Historical Committee, which consists of faculty, staff, students and community representatives. He said what the committee is requesting is in line with our policy. Mr. English said the historical committee is looking to name our high school gym after someone and he is requesting for the Board to consider voting on this tonight. He believes this situation is very time sensitive as the Melamed situation was.

Mr. Jennings said it is nice that we have a chance to do this for someone who can enjoy it after they have put in so much time and effort in this district. He said that he respects what Mr. Ottinger has done over the years and he agrees with this dedication.

Mr. English said the letter came from Mr. Keith Petrosky. He asked for each Board member to read the letter and give their feedback.

Mr. DeWinne thinks we should not vote on this and it should be discussed with public input. He said no disrespect to any one person but we have many notable names that have done a great deal in the gym or on the playing fields. Mr. DeWinne said naming anything is a big matter.

Mr. DiGiorgio appreciates the work that the VHS Historical Committee does however he believes further discussion is necessary because it is not an easy decision to make in a short time frame. He would like to table this for further discussion.

Mr. English said every case and situation is different. He believes in three weeks we found a way to have the Mark Melamed dedication done. Mr. English would like to create an Ad Hoc Committee immediately to make a conscious effort to have this done in an expedited way.

Mr. English asked Mr. DeSanto if this is something we would table.

Mr. DeSanto said there was no motion so there is nothing to table. He said you can appoint a committee.

Mr. Pagano agrees with Mr. DeWinne however circumstances such as this need to be expedited. He said that he is sure when everything is said and done it will be unanimous for the individual who is being discussed. Mr. Pagano feels this should be handled, discussed and voted on immediately. He agrees with Mr. Jennings to do something for someone who can actually see it done.

Mr. English said maybe after tomorrow night's Finance Committee meeting his can be discussed and voted on February 11th.

Ms. Rios suggested having a special meeting on Wednesday for the vote on this.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the discussion on this will be about the contributions of individuals.

Mr. English asked what the policy that is in place for this states.

Mr. DeSanto said the policy prior to its amendment and adoption in December indicated that with respect to a school the individual had to be deceased five years or more. He said with respect to a facility within a school building it would be two years or more. Mr. DeSanto said the Board deleted the two year requirement so now a facility can be named after any person deceased or alive.

Mr. English said this is the first time that the Historical Committee has come forward with a request like this. He said maybe they can sit in on our discussion.

Mr. DeWinne said it is not true to say that he does not want to name the gym after Chalky Ottinger but out of respect to other people who have put their time in everyone should be considered.

Mr. English said the Ad Hoc Committee will discuss this tomorrow night.

Mr. DeWinne said he would like some public input on this.

Dr. Gruccio introduced and congratulated the following newly hired employees Mr. Robert Green, Purchasing Agent, Mr. Scott Musterel, Assistant Business Administration, Ms. Carmella Heer, Principal at Max Leuchter School and Mrs. Helen Haley, Business Administrator.

Public:

Tom Ulrich

Mr. Ulrich spoke about a group of Vineland High School students who participated in an effort to highlight underage drinking. He congratulated all the new hires. Mr. Ulrich said the Historical Committee sent the same letter for John Casadia. He said it was expected to be voted on immediately for the pool. Mr. Ulrich said he was told that it was not going before the Policy & Personnel Committee meeting but would be voted on at the next Board meeting. He expressed his concern that what is good for one person is not good for another. Mr. Ulrich said at the next meeting he is sure we could get this Board room packed with people who want to speak about the contributions that Chalky Ottinger has made. He said that consistency is the best policy and he urged the Board to please deliberate.

Yolanda Garcia

Ms. Garcia expressed her concern in regards to the eight period school day and mandatory lunch period.

Steven Field

Mr. Field expressed his concern in regards to the eight period school day.

Bill McDevitt

Mr. McDevitt thanked Dr. Gruccio and the Board for addressing the eight period day tonight.

J. Muller

Ms. Muller spoke in support of the marching band and expressed her concern in regards to possible music program cuts.

Gavin Loper

Mr. Loper spoke in support of the music and art programs at the high school.

Emily Martin

Ms. Martin expressed her concern in regards to the eight period school day.

Lee Burke

Mr. Burke said he was impressed with the structuring of the committees. He said the PARCC discussion last week was very helpful. Mr. Burke said the Superintendent's evaluation needs to be done and is required by law to be completed. He said when you do any evaluation it has to be fair. Mr. Burke said he thinks it is important that student achievement, employee morale, and student safety is to be kept in mind when any evaluation is done. He volunteered his services as a former professional fund raiser to the Ad Hoc committee if necessary on issues that come up.

Chris Malone

Mr. Malone spoke in support of the Arts Program at the high school.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Jennings congratulated Ms. Acosta on her Board seat. He thanked Mr. Frey and Ms. Morello for their work on the PARCC process. Mr. Jennings said he is looking forward to being on the Buildings & Grounds Committee. He agrees with Mr. Burke and thinks that a lot of our successes derive from supervision/management and finding our weaknesses and correcting them. Mr. Jennings appreciated everyone who spoke tonight.

Mr. Pagano thanked everyone who took the time to speak tonight. He congratulated all the new hires and appointees. Mr. Pagano thanked central administration for working very hard and doing an awesome job. He said that he would have liked to have seen Mr. Frey's entire presentation last week and thanked him for all that he does.

Ms. Morello congratulated the students who spoke tonight. She also congratulated all students she has read about in the newspaper the past couple of weeks. Ms. Morello urged the students to continue to come to meetings and continue to do their best.

Ms. Codispoti thanked the community and students for speaking tonight. She congratulated the new hires. Ms. Codispoti thanked all staff members for a job well done. She feels the Ad Hoc Committee is a great idea and is hopeful that the gym dedication will be done quickly because of the urgency of it.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked the students, parents and community members for speaking tonight. He urged everyone to be careful because of the snow that is coming.

Ms. Acosta thanked her fellow Board members and central administration for their support and is so grateful to be sitting up here on the Board. She has had nothing but wonderful experiences with the administrators in regards to any issues or concerns with her children. Ms. Acosta also thanked the aides, crossing guards, bus drivers, teachers, guidance counselors and school nurses. She also cannot say enough about Mr. Frey's commitment to our students and bringing new programs to the district. Ms. Acosta thanked all the parents who came tonight and promised that any decisions will be taken into consideration. She applauded the students who spoke tonight. Ms. Acosta said that she appreciated Mr. Burke's comments tonight and his desire to want to participate in fund raising.

Mr. DeWinne thanked Mr. Steven Field and his daughter for their volunteer services during the summer at the high school. He said that he hopes Ms. Acosta and Mrs. Haley can get things accomplished with the Endowment Committee and welcomes Mr. Burkes willingness to participate. Mr. DeWinne said the students who spoke did a good job and he commended their parents. He said the art programs, extra-curricular activities and sports are the carrots that keep children in school and he would not support any cuts to those programs.

Ms. Rios thanked all the students who spoke tonight. She said we are very proud of them and they represent the district very well. Ms. Rios thanked Mr. Frangipani for the detailed Anti-Bullying Presentation. She congratulated all the new hires. Ms. Rios said to the newly hired purchasing agent she hopes to see a lot of district savings. She said Chalky Ottinger is a good person and she has nothing negative to say about him but respects the fact that the other elected officials wish to discuss this topic in depth.

Dr. Gruccio thanked the Board for their kind comments regarding central administration. She also publicly thanked the team that she works with every day and is very grateful to be working with them. Dr. Gruccio welcomed Ms. Acosta to her first Board meeting. She thanked the Durand Elementary School students for the flag salute.

Dr. Guccio welcomed Mr. Green and congratulated him along with Mr. Musterel, Mrs. Haley and Mrs. Heer. She said that Mr. Callavini is back from his surgery and she wished him well. Dr. Guccio said ten schools received Five Star Awards this year for their cafeteria and will be recognized in March. She congratulated Dennis Parks who has just become certified as an automobile technician. Dr. Guccio also congratulated Paul Farinaccio who has just become certified as an NJ Licensed Master HVAC Contractor. She thanked all students, parents and staff who spoke this evening. Dr. Guccio wanted everyone to please understand that we are not cutting the arts and when we are able, everything will be explained in detail.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English thanked his fellow Board members, central administration and the community. He said that he heard a rumor that a former Board member said that Scott English was cutting media specialists at the elementary level. Mr. English said he does not believe that was on the cut list nor was it ever. He addressed common sense and said if you do not know the facts then make people show you them in writing. Mr. English said he thinks we are heading in a different direction and Dr. Guccio has the support of this Board and with support the Board demands success.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. DiGiorgio, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:df

