

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, February 1, 2017 at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Pagano on vacation.

Also present: 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: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent due to illness.

Mr. Jennings 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:

Mr. Frangipani introduced Ms. Vanessa Rasmussen, Vineland High School English Department chair, to honor the winners of the Poetry Out Loud Competition for 2016-2017.

Ms. Rasmussen said Francis Virtucio and Thomas Burgess were the two winners from our Poetry Out Loud Competition in which 20 students from various classes competed over the course of two rounds for the title of school champion. She explained the Poetry Out Loud Competition and thanked the Board for honoring the winners.

Francis Virtucio recited his winning poem.

Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, explained the Cumberland County Positive Use Development Coalition in which he is a co-chair of along with Lieutenant Lene Bowers from the Vineland Police Department. He said it is a county wide juvenile delinquency prevention program that is sponsored by the Attorney General’s office and the Cumberland County Freeholders. Mr. Frangipani said tonight we are going to recognize the students who participated in the program. He introduced Mr. Paul Spinelli, City Council President, to help present the awards along with Mr. Greg Gallo, City Legal Analyst and Mr. Mike Reginelli, South West Council Sponsor.

Mr. Reginelli said the contest run by the Positive Youth Development Coalition focused on showing that the youth in Cumberland County can really stand up for positive things. He introduced the winners of the competition.

Student Technology

Presentation:

Ms. Katherine Rivera said this evening we will have two presentations by our elementary students showcasing how they are integrating technology within their classrooms. She introduced Ms. Lisa Arena, Principal and Ms. Kristen Speakman, Vice Principal of Mennies Elementary School to share the great things happening at Mennies Elementary School followed by Ms. Debi Quinn, Principal of Winslow Elementary School.

Ms. Arena spoke about how passionately she feels about the integration of technology within the classroom setting.

Ms. Quinn also spoke about the integration of technology in the classroom.

Ms. Karen Morvay, teacher from Mennies Elementary School and Ms. Samantha Trovarelli Barbagli, teacher from Winslow Elementary School along with some of their students showed all the great things they are doing in their classrooms.

Mr. Frangipani said it was a great presentation. He thanked the principals, supervisors and students for being here this evening.

HIB Report:

No discussion.

Comments by

Board Solicitor:

None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.

### 3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 3.1 **Name Change of Vineland High School North** – Ms. Codispoti asked Mr. DeSanto to explain the policy.

Mr. DeSanto said in April 2016 the Board adopted Policy #7250, which sets forth detailed procedures for the naming of a building or a facility. He said there are procedures under the policy if the request is initiated by the public or Board. Mr. DeSanto said before you tonight is a request from the Vineland High School Historical Committee to name Vineland High School North after Mr. Dennis Tanner. He said that letter is the start of the procedure for the naming of a school or facility initiated by the public. Mr. DeSanto said tonight the discussion would be whether or not you want to change the name of Vineland High School to any individual that meets the qualifications of our policy.

Mr. Medio clarified that you are only changing the name of the building and it would still be Vineland High School.

Mr. DeSanto said yes it would be to dedicate the building in the name of a worthy individual. He said if the consensus tonight is to leave things alone then nothing would get moved to next week's regular meeting. Mr. DeSanto said if it is decided to name the building in honor of an individual then next week there will be an official vote. He said Mrs. Haley would advertise for nominations with supporting data so the public is given an opportunity to have the Board consider other worthy individuals. Mr. DeSanto said after a period of time the nominations would be closed and there would be a special meeting where the Board would consider all the nominations with a decision made.

Ms. Acosta said based on the recommendation of the Historical Society she would like to see this on next week's agenda so we can vote on dedicating the name of the building to an individual who qualifies.

Mr. Bordley agrees and feels that the former Board Vice President made a very strong case.

Ms. Codispoti said she would also support this after listening to the prior Board President and Vice President.

Mr. Sbrana said this would be a well-deserved tribute to a man who gave his life for a student. He said Mr. Tanner was his eighth grade shop teacher and a man that he respected at Landis School.

Ms. Rios feels we should not be voicing our thoughts now if we want to move forward with this then it should be put on next week's agenda.

Mr. DeSanto said it appears we have a consensus so after the vote next week we will know what the next step is. He said it will go under 10b. on next week's agenda, which is a Board Member's proposal.

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
- 4.2 **Board Secretary/Treasurer's Report for December 2016** - No discussion.
- 4.3 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Authorize the Board Secretary to Advertise/Receive Competitive Bids and Request for Proposals (RFP)** – No discussion.
- 4.5 **Tentative Tuition Rates for 2017-2018 School Year** – No discussion
- 4.6 **Tuition Contracts between Cumberland County Technical Education Center and the Vineland Board of Education for 2016-2017** – No discussion.
- 4.7 **Student Transportation Contract Addendum** – No discussion.
- 4.8 **Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation – a. 2016/2017 Addendums, b. Contracts, c. Out of District Joint Agreements, d. Award Bid #6/2016-17, e. Statistics/Updates for December 2016** – Mr. Bordley asked if this is money that is reimbursed to the district. Mrs. Haley said yes we have a separate entity called Cumberland County Regional Cooperative that we took over from the Cumberland County Technical Education Center. She said we put bus routes out for bid for other districts as well as our own. Mrs. Haley said we do receive money for doing this.
- 4.9 **Donation of three Desks to the Vineland Police Department** – No discussion.
- 4.10 **Frank Wells Paving Bus Advertisement** – Mr. Bordley thanked Mr. Howard Wells who is a very valued supporter of our district.
- 4.11 **Implementation of Corrective Action Plan for Tiny Tots Early Childhood Education Center** – No discussion.

## 2. REGULAR AGENDA

b. Items proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member:

### 1. Discussion regarding return of elementary school computer classes – Mr. Medio

Mr. Medio said he has received a lot of input from the public on computer classes in the elementary schools. He asked if the elementary school students take a test to show what grade level they are on in computer knowledge. Mr. Frey said there is no test given to students it is infused in their curriculum. Mr. Bordley asked if there is any standardized testing. Mr. Frey said yes in eighth grade. Mr. Medio asked what the passing rate is. Mr. Frey said 100%. Mr. Bordley said the educators who have taken manners to implement this process deserve praise for what they have done. He said it is very uplifting to see what these educators have done with these students.

### 2. Discussion regarding committee of the whole budget review – Mr. Sbrana

Mr. Sbrana said at a certain point in time the Board should function as a committee of the whole so options could be discussed with complete transparency in regards to the 2017-2018 budget. He believes there was some discussion about this with the prior Board and he was under the impression that is how we were going to be moving forward. Mr. Sbrana said he would like to recommend that when we are at this stage and have concrete numbers in regard to the budget that the discussions be held in public on television so that everyone knows what is going on.

Review of bills incurred during December 2016 – No discussion.

Public Comments: Brian DeWinne

Mr. DeWinne said he is hoping that the Board sees the opportunity of naming the Vineland High School North building as something great. He said hopefully we can do this the right way and honor someone who is truly deserving.

Lee Burke

Mr. Burke said the technology presentation was excellent. He thinks it is a good idea that we expanded our services through the alliance as far as transportation. Mr. Burke expressed his concern in regards to the \$400,000 shortfall that was mentioned by Mr. Callavini because of a miscommunication with the Charter School. He said the Vineland Education Foundation needs to be restructured and take on the role of soliciting funds for purposes to benefit our students.

Mr. Burke said he supports the naming of any building, facility or room. He would like to know the status of the selling of the buildings that were voted on to close. Mr. Burke said he would also like to know who is serving on what committee. He supports the budget of the whole process.

Committee Reports: Ms. Codispoti said the Curriculum & Instruction minutes are on the website. She said at the meeting they discussed health and safety emergency response plan review, course name change, addition of AP Environmental Sciences (APES) for 2017/18, student technology presentation to the Board of Education and website accessibility features and school content.

Mr. Bordley said the Facilities Committee met on January 26<sup>th</sup> and discussed improvements to Gittone Stadium such as the turf field, locker room improvements at the high school, Almond Road Preschool, Architect of Record annual contract, administration office move to Landis School, and sale of properties.

Ms. Acosta said discussed at tonight's Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was the interview process and status for employment of armed security personnel, possible litigation from former employees, upcoming tenure charges against certain employees, Bylaw 0151 Organization Meeting, Bylaw 0155 Board Committees, Policy 1510 Americans with Disabilities Act, Policy 2418 Section 504, and Policy 8330 Student Records. Ms. Acosta said the committee reviewed the uniform policy and made suggestions with respect to some changes. She said Mr. Frangipani is going to form a committee of principals to review the policy, collect their recommendations and report back to the committee.

Mr. Fiocchi said discussed at the Finance Committee was switching the commission request from a percentage to a dollar amount for our health insurance broker, changing the architectural services to a comparable process, the budget calendar review, the 2017/18 proposed budget with analysis of cuts and increases, and the Supreme Court's denial of Governor Christie's motion to reopen the Abbott decision.

Mr. Jennings said the committees will be posted on the website.

Mr. DeSanto said if the non-renewal of the Almond Road lease is the Facility Committee's recommendation it should go on next week's agenda because the facility committee cannot authorize the non-renewal.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Acosta, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

