

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, February 8, 2017 at 6:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio, Mr. Pagano, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Bordley

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. 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: Students from Durand Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Ms. Kathleen Andaloro, Principal Secretary at Veterans Memorial School, who passed away this week.

Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Lynn Monteleone, Preschool Principal, to recognize an Insight employee for her act of heroism.

Ms. Monteleone said a preschool child was choking while eating a piece of melon. A classroom assistant, Jennifer Cortes, immediately jumped into action and used the skills that she was taught. Ms. Monteleone said we are very proud of Jennifer Cortes and look at her as one of our heroes.

Dr. Guccio introduced Miss Gracie Galan, Student/Board Liaison, to present the student liaison report.

Miss Galan presented an update on the various activities happening at Vineland High School.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Acosta, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the minutes were approved from December 22, 2016, January 4, 2017 and January 18, 2017. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio and Ms. Rios who “abstained” on December 22, 2016.

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Shianne Bermudez
Ms. Bermudez spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Elizabeth Carpani
Ms. Carpani spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Korie Hague
Ms. Hague spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Alyse Jackson
Ms. Jackson spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Charles Jackson
Mr. Jackson spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Frances Lugo
Ms. Lugo spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Jose Lugo
Mr. Lugo spoke about the message he received last week from the athletic director that his name was not going to be put on the agenda to coach this year.

Kristina Kulik
Ms. Kulik spoke on behalf of assistant girls’ softball Coach Jose Lugo.

Brianna Suppi
Ms. Suppi spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Domenic Carpani
Mr. Carpani spoke in support of girls’ softball Coach Lugo.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

The initiation of the procedures to dedicate Vineland High School North in honor of an individual meeting the qualifications of Policy 7250

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, to initiate the procedures to dedicate Vineland High School North in honor of an individual meeting the qualifications of Policy 7250. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. DeSanto said now that the Board has adopted the motion for the procedure the proposed public notice needs to be published and posted on the website by Mrs. Haley. He asked the Board if the wording for the public notice is acceptable and what date they would like to have the special meeting on for the public hearing. Mr. Jennings asked why we are choosing March 3rd as the final date to receive written nominations and supporting data from the public. Mr. DeSanto said under our policy the deadline for submission of written nominations shall be no less than 20 days from the date of the Board vote authorizing the solicitation of nominations from the public. He chose Friday, March 3rd because of a little bit of a cushion.

The consensus of the Board was to hold the special meeting on March 15th. Mr. Sbrana will not be available but will be Skyped in that night.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Medio who “abstained.” (\$22,207,365.56).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval) None.

Public: Vicky Miller
Ms. Miller said that she along with Mr. Pagano and his wife will be holding a sub sale on behalf of Mr. Bordley to help defray some of the expenses he currently has right now due to his accident.

Report/Remarks by
Board President: Mr. Jennings said he is predicting that there will be no accumulation in regards to tonight’s snowstorm.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Sbrana congratulated Ms. Cortes and the flag salute students. He wished a speedy recovery to Mr. Bordley. He said that he is disappointed that there will not be a committee of the whole in regards to the 2017/2018 budget. Mr. Sbrana said he strongly believes the only path to consensus on any issue, particularly those that impact the lives and employment of people, is through an open conversation about the adoptions and looking towards collaboration. He said we as Board members are denied an opportunity to provide input that includes the opinions by the parents of our students and taxpayers we represent. Mr. Sbrana said in the most recent finance committee minutes there was no mention of the plan to close Landis School and during the 13 months he served on the Board he does not recall any significant conversation on that subject. Mr. Sbrana said he strongly objects to that proposal and believes his sentiments are shared by many in this community. He said for 90 years Landis has been a school and he is hopeful we can keep Landis as a school. Mr. Sbrana humbly requests further dialogue with the entire Board on this subject.

Mr. Medio congratulated two Vineland High School football players Isiah Pacheco and Nihym Anderson for receiving football scholarship offers. He said as Mr. Sbrana stated we should not be closing Landis School because Landis School is a historic site and has been a school since 1927. Mr. Medio said he cannot support spending \$500,000 or a million dollars to renovate that building for a few offices. He said you can easily move some people into Landis School if you need the office space and have the offices in with the students and save money. Mr. Medio said when the decision was made to build another school with the population shrinking slightly over the past few years you really have no choice but to close a building or buildings. He said Kristina Kulik, the girls' softball coach, who spoke tonight, was one of the best softball players this town has ever had. Mr. Medio said that she is quite a coach and has turned the program around to what it used to be.

Ms. Acosta congratulated all the students. She echoed Ms. Rios comments in regards to issues regarding Mr. Lugo's approval as a volunteer coach. Ms. Acosta thanked Mr. Lugo for his many years of service and the great impact that he had on our students. She said that she attended a wonderful celebration at Vineland High School South in honor of black history month.

Ms. Codispoti sent her prayers and condolences to the family of Kathleen Andoloro who recently passed away. She also sent prayers and well wishes for fellow Board member Jeff Bordley for a speedy recovery. Ms. Codispoti thanked Ms. Monteleone for bringing to our attention the heroic actions of Jennifer Cortes. She thanked Ms. Cortes for saving one of our students. Ms. Codispoti thanked the Durand students for doing a fantastic job with the flag salute. She echoed the comments made by Ms. Rios and Ms. Acosta in regards to Coach Lugo. Ms. Codispoti said she is in awe of the girls that spoke tonight from the softball team for their dedication to their coach and wished them the best of luck in their season.

Dr. Guccio thanked the Durand students and their principals for coming out this evening. She sends her best wishes to Mr. Bordley and his family. Dr. Guccio said she spoke with Mr. Bordley this evening and he stated he will either attend the next meeting or be Skyped in. She thanked Mr. Frangipani for filling in for her last week while she was ill.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

