

The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Reber Administration Office, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 5:32 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana (on speaker phone from Florida), Ms. Spinelli, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Jennings.

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

Mr. Bordley 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, SNJ Today, the Press of Atlantic City, Nuestra Comunidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute: Students from Veterans Memorial Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 contract is VEA Level 3 grievance hearing. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of 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 possible tenure charges against a teacher. 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. **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. Medio, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

The Board recessed to executive session at 5:36 p.m.

The combined meeting resumed at 6:42 p.m.

Mr. Medio arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Special

Presentations:

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Ross Stanger, Supervisor for Curriculum and Instruction, to share some exciting news about an award that our district will be receiving.

Mr. Stanger said he is very proud to announce that Vineland Public Schools has been named a District of Character for the State of New Jersey. He said we are currently pursuing the National District of Character status. Mr. Stanger thanked everyone who has been instrumental in the process of the application.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent, to present the September 2017 through January 2018 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report.

Mr. Frangipani said twice a year an update has to be given on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB). He explained that a HIB is any kind of written, verbal, or electronic communication that is motivated by a perceived characteristic such as race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or any distinguishing characteristic. Mr. Frangipani said a HIB can happen anywhere in school or off grounds. He said a HIB is a disruption to the learning process. Mr. Frangipani presented a couple examples of HIB incidents that happened in other districts. Mr. Frangipani reviewed the data and HIB reporting for year to date. He said there will be some changes made to the HIB law starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Vanessa Rasmussen, VHS English Department Chair, to honor the winners of the Poetry Out Loud Competition for 2017-2018.

Ms. Rasmussen said this year ten students competed in the Poetry Out Loud school competition. She announced that this year's winner is Francis Virtucio, who is a junior and also last year's winner. Ms. Rasmussen said the runner up is Jeremy Rasmussen who is a sophomore. Jeremy and Francis read their poems.

HIB: No discussion.

Student Liaison  
Report: None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the minutes were approved from the January 3, 2018 reorganization meeting, January 10, 2018 combined meeting/executive session and the January 24, 2018 Board retreat. All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Sbrana who voted "yes" on all minutes but "abstained" on January 24, 2018 retreat.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

A C O S T A	B O R D L E Y	F I O C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

**PERSONNEL (1.1-1.2)**

- 1.1 The Board approve the personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.
- a. Retirements, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Transfers
  - b. Students
  - c. Substitutes
  - d. Extracurricular Activities
  - e. Volunteers

All Members voted "yes" except Ms. Acosta who voted "yes" on all items but "abstained" on transfers employee Edgardo Rodriguez. (8-0-0)

- 1.2 The Board approve the increase in the hourly pay rate of substitute cafeteria/playground aides from \$8.60 to \$9.50 per hour, effective Friday, February 16, 2018.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

**PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1-2.2)**

- 2.1 The Board approve trips, district travel and Spring Athletics.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

- 2.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary to be authorized to enter into an Affiliation Agreement with Georgian Court University for the 2017-2018 school year for the placement of students for field internship, student teaching, practicum and observations.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

- 2.3 The Board approve the first reading for the following Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations:

No vote needed. Only discussion item.

**Mandated Changes:**

- Regulation R5460.1 High School Transcripts (Revised)
- Policy P7440 School District Security (Revised)
- Regulation R7440 School District Security (Revised)



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**FINANCE (4.1-4.11)**

4.1 The Board approve budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for December 2017.

All Members voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for December 2017.

All Members voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

4.3 The Board approve the placement of Special Education students.

All Members voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

4.4 The Board approve submission of the following grant applications:

All Members voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

- a. 2017 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant for Durand Elementary School in the amount of \$9,064.
- b. Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant for Cunningham Academy in the amount of \$10,000.
- c. Slow Food Grant for Winslow Elementary School in the amount of \$500.

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4.5 The Board approve the acceptance of the following funding:

All Members  
voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

- a. 2017 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant for Durand Elementary School in the amount of \$9,064.
- b. Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant for Cunningham Academy in the amount of \$10,000.
- c. Wetlands Institute Environmental Field Trip for 92 students and 5 chaperones from Mennies Elementary School in the maximum amount of \$970.

4.6 The Board approve submission of the FY 2018 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Education, which includes any carryover monies for the FY 2017 IDEA Grant.

All Members  
voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

July 2, 2017 to June 30, 2018  
 Basic Allocation (3-21).....\$3,071,890.  
 Preschool Allocation (3-5)..... \$ 125,671.

4.7 The Board approve the submission of the FY 2018 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Application Amendment to include carryover funds to the State of New Jersey Department of Education.

All Members  
voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018  
 Title I-A.....\$3,537,393  
 Title II-A..... \$ 447,124  
 Title III.....\$ 327,338  
 Title III Immigrant.....\$ 12,454  
 Title IV Part A.....\$ 45,916

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4.8 The Board approve tentative tuition rates for the 2018-2019 school year.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

4.9 The Board approve the following tuition contracts between Cumberland County Technical Education Center and Vineland Board of Education for the 2017-2018 school year for the following amounts:

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

- a. Shared time 46 students @ \$1,000/year...\$46,000
- b. STRIVE 5 students @ \$14,500/year.....\$72,500
- c. ESY 2 students @ \$2,240/year.....\$ 4,480.

**Mr. Bordley asked what STRIVE is. Dr. Gruccio said STRIVE is the CC Tech's special education program and ESY is extended school year.**

**Mr. Medio asked if the STRIVE students come here. Mrs. Haley said they go to the CC Tech. Mr. Medio asked if we pay the same tuition rate for the students who are not special education. Mrs. Haley said no.**

4.10 The Board approve the reduction in the Salem County Special Services School District preschool handicapped tuition rate from \$43,000 to \$20,000 prorated for the 2017-2018 school year due to the program being relocated to Lower Alloways Creek Township School.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

4.11 The Board approve to authorize the Board Secretary to advertise and receive competitive Bids and Request for Proposals (RFP) during the 2018-2019 school year.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)



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4.12 The Board approve a resolution authorizing the procurement of advertising revenues in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-9.4.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

**Mr. Ulrich asked if this is about the bus advertising. Mrs. Haley said this is for the gym walls.**

4.13 The Board approve the bus advertisement renewal for Rental Country for one year from February 22, 2018 to February 21, 2019 for 20 ads in the amount of \$3,315.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

4.14 The Board approve Change Order #1 McMullen Roofing Inc. for the Landis School 2017 Partial Roof Replacement for the unused contingency allowance of \$10,000.

All Members voted "yes." (8-0-0)

4.15 The Board approve Change Order #01-1 from LandTek Group, Inc. for fence upgrades to the Gittone Stadium in the amount of \$14,002.

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Holmes who "abstained" and Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich who voted "no." (5-2-1)  
The motion passed.

**Mr. Ulrich asked why the fence improvements need to be made now and what part of the specifications was this in. Mrs. Haley said originally this was not in the specifications but in December there was a construction meeting and other things were discussed by the vendor that we may want to consider. She said one of the things discussed was changes to the fencing and the other was cool play infill.**

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Continued

Mrs. Haley said the vendor calculated what the change order would be and submitted it. Mr. Ulrich asked if these items were needed why were they not in the specifications when this went out to bid. Mr. Weaver said the initial specifications were as is conditions. He said during discussions, after the project was bid, the athletic director noted that we should raise the fence 6 feet on the end zones to prevent people from gathering. Mr. Weaver said the second part was controlling the site and the additional cost was to gate off the openings in the fence so it could be sealed. Mr. Ulrich asked if this is absolutely needed. Mr. Weaver said for security and longevity of the field you definitely want the gates to control the site to keep out problems that can occur. He said as far as the fence it would be a benefit during the games. Mr. Ulrich said he does not understand, at this stage of the game, why this do if it is not absolutely necessary. He said he sees this as a want and does not see how this adds to student achievement. Mr. Ulrich said we are facing tax increases, school closings and teacher layoffs and the athletic director is deciding to do upgrades on the field. Mrs. Haley said we budgeted \$900,000 for the turf field and when this was put out to bid, with several alternates, it came to \$863,600. She said there is \$36,400 in excess in the escrow account, which was set aside for this that we are permitted to use. Mrs. Haley said the way we were going to fund these change orders was to use the \$36,400 from the lease purchase. She said there is money left over in the construction account in capital outlay (fund 12) because we have credit allowances for the contingency that was not used. Mrs. Haley said there is about \$46,900 in capital outlay due to the jobs that came in less. She said we were going to put this towards the cool play and the fencing would come out of the maintenance budget. Mr. Ulrich said if the lease money in the account is not spent, where is it returned to. Mrs. Haley said if it is not spent we use it to pay down the principal.

A C O S T A	B O R D L E Y	F I O C C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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Continued

**Mr. Ulrich said if something comes in under bid it would benefit the district to pay down the principal.**

**Dr. Gruccio asked if we know the breakdown of the gated fence and the 6 feet on each side. Mrs. Haley gave the breakdown of the \$14,002 from the proposed change order. The cost of the slide gate is \$5,700.**

**Mr. Bordley said having a district for our children to be proud of and to call home keeps them here, which is something that we lacked for a while. He said that his point of view is if you are proud of something you will be more relaxed and want to go to school.**

**Mr. Ulrich said Cumberland County is the poorest county in the state. He said money like this could be used to put into facilities for students. Mr. Ulrich said he does not think children will be happier to come to school because a \$14,000 fence was put up. He said we are struggling and will lay off teachers to put another \$73,000 into the field.**

**Mr. Medio said item 4.16 on the agenda is an approval for a change order for an upgrade to something called cool play, which is a layer of rubber that supports the turf. He said part of the reason that we looked at changing it to green instead of black is to cut down on the temperature on the field.**

**Mr. Bordley said that we will not be voting on 4.16 tonight because we are waiting for a response from LandTek for a negotiated lower rate.**

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4.16 The Board approve Change Order #02-0 from LandTek Group, Inc. for upgrade of synthetic turf infill to “cool play” to the Gittone Stadium in the amount of \$59,307.95.

**REMOVED FROM AGENDA  
 (No vote)**

4.17 The Board approve Change Order #11 from Capri Construction for work related renovations in the lower level student registration department of Landis Administration Building in the amount of \$27,137.88.

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (8-0-0)

**Mr. Ulrich asked why this change is necessary. Dr. Gruccio said we have decided to place transportation/registration in the same building with us so we are under one roof. She said we will be able to rent or sell the Coney Avenue building, which would bring some funds into our district.**

**Mr. Holmes asked what we have currently spent on renovations to Landis. Dr. Gruccio said we have not spent any money over the \$450,000 that the city is going to give us for the Reber Building except for this first change order.**

**Mr. Ulrich asked if the \$450,000 has been paid. Mr. DeSanto said the city was willing to wait until we were completely out of the Plum Street building. He said we are projecting that the closing will take place mid-March.**

**Mr. Sbrana asked for confirmation that we were not voting on 4.16.**

4.18 The Board approve the following name changes to the authorized singers on the Rossi School Activity Account:

All Members  
 voted “yes.”  
 (8-0-0)

- a. Kelly Williams – add
- b. Rick Ebinger – remove due to retirement

A C O S T A	B O R D L E Y	F I O C C H I	H O L M E S	J E N N I N G S	M E D I O	S B R A N A	S P I N E L L I	U L R I C H
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4.19 The Board approve the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:

- a. 2017-2018 Transportation Quoted Contracts
- b. 2017-2018 Transportation Addendum
- c. 2017-2018 Record and Award Bid #7
- d. 2017-2018 Contract Corrections
- e. 2017-2018 Bid #6 Contracts

All Members  
voted "yes."  
(8-0-0)

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fiocchi, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the bills were approved for December 2017 and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,129,058.71).

Committee Reports: Mr. Fiocchi said at the January 31<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee meeting Mrs. Haley distributed the proposed 2018-2019 budget highlighting budget cuts with a detailed report of the general fund. He said also discussed was sending out Request For Proposals (RFP) for several professional services, the subdivision process of the Coney Avenue property and transactions with the Cumberland County Technical School.

Mr. Ulrich said the Policy & Personnel Committee met tonight and discussed the grievances that were heard in executive session along with policy additions and bylaws.

Items Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board members:

A four-member committee of the Board met to hear a HIB appeal on January 22, 2018. The committee is recommending to the full Board to uphold the Substantiated HIB from Wallace Middle School on November 15, 2017.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Mr. Holmes, to uphold the Substantiated HIB from Wallace Middle School on November 15, 2017. All Members voted “yes” except for Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich who “abstained.” The motion passed.

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

Public: Tom Deitz  
Mr. Deitz expressed his concern in regards to an attack on his son by another student.

Mr. Bordley told Mr. Deitz that Mr. Frangipani will discuss the HIB process with him.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. Ulrich said last year the Board looked at the possibility of putting armed guards into our schools. He would like to review the proposal again for some type of enhanced security in our schools.

Mr. Medio asked what committee would review this proposal. Mr. Ulrich said the Finance Committee first and then Policy Committee.

Dr. Guccio said the last time this was proposed she met with every group and at the time no one was for it but does not mind looking into this again.

Board Member

Remarks:

Ms. Acosta wished all administration, faculty and students a Happy Valentine's Day.

Dr. Guccio wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mr. Sbrana thanked the flag salute students and congratulated the Poetry Out Loud Contest winners. He said that he was pleased to hear about the special honor that the district received being named District of Character for the State of New Jersey. Mr. Sbrana said that he concurs with Mr. Ulrich about doing something within reason that we can afford, to have safe schools.

Report/Remarks by


Board President:

Mr. Bordley wished Mr. Ulrich a Happy Belated Birthday. He also wished his wife a Happy Birthday. Mr. Bordley asked for everyone to have a safe prosperous month.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Fiocchi, seconded by Mr. Holmes, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. All Members voted "yes."

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:dt