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, March 8, 2017 at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley through phone, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Medio, Mr. Pagano, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana through Skype. Absent: None.

Also present: Mr. Frangipani, Acting Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: Dr. Gruccio out on a medical leave.

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 Wallace Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: None.

Special Presentation(s): Mr. Frangipani introduced Ms. Hope Johnson, Veterans Memorial Middle School Principal, to honor students participating in the All South Jersey Band.

Ms. Johnson said it is an honor this evening to congratulate four wonderful students at Veterans Memorial Middle School for participating in the All South Jersey Band on Sunday, March 5th at Fernwood Middle School in Egg Harbor Township. She congratulated and introduced each of the students who were presented a certificate.

Mr. Frangipani introduced Ms. Tammy Monahan, Rossi Middle School Principal, to acknowledge staff and students for a successful 2016-2017 Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes.

Ms. Monahan thanked everyone who assisted and contributed to this event. She also thanked local radio station SoJO 104.9 for coming out to this event every year and making it special for the participants. Ms. Monahan introduced and thanked Rossi School Teacher, Ms. Amato, who does all of the work to make this walk possible.
Ms. Amato said this is the sixth year that we have participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Walk. She said this year more than a third of our schools population participated in the walk with a minimum of a $5.00 donation to participate. Ms. Amato said we raised $3,139 for the walk and introduced the top student donators.

Ms. Codispoti said this research is important and thanked everyone who participated in this walk.

Mr. Sbrana congratulated Rossi School for this great effort.

Mr. Frangipani introduced Emily Caignon, VHS Senior Class Secretary, to present the student liaison report.

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

Mr. Frangipani introduced Mrs. Helen Haley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to present the 2017-2018 Budget proposal.

Mrs. Haley said this budget presentation is also being shared with Mr. Sbrana and Mr. Bordley at their locations. She reviewed the budget process to date, which began in October. Mrs. Haley said next Wednesday, March 15th a special meeting will be held to vote on the budget to be submitted to the county for their review. She said the tentative public hearing date is May 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Wallace Middle School. She said the vote on the final budget is scheduled for May 3, 2017 prior to the work session at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Haley said in preparing a budget it has to be balanced. She said your revenues minus appropriations have to equal zero. Mrs. Haley reviewed what the revenue side is comprised of along with a breakdown of all the revenue line items. She said we are proposing $22.5 million in our tax levy, which is an increase of $904,000 and equates to a 3 cent tax increase to the tax payer. Mrs. Haley said 79.5% of our budget is funded by state aid. She said we were very grateful that on February 28th, as part of his speech, Governor Christie gave the legislators 100 days to present a funding formula for state aid. Mrs. Haley said Senator Sweeney is visiting various locations and discussing the SFRA formula, which is the formula that is currently in place. Mrs. Haley said that she attended a meeting last week in which Senator Sweeney discussed the funding formula.
Mrs. Haley said the calculation that the state has for us for local tax levy is significantly greater than what we have in our budget. She reviewed the tax rate comparison from 1998 through 2016. Mrs. Haley said appropriations are the expense side of the budget. She said every year there are increases in salaries, health benefit premiums, and charter/technical school tuition. Mrs. Haley explained each of the appropriation line items. She addressed the budget approach and highlights for the 2017-2018 budget. Mrs. Haley reviewed the capital outlay budget of $2,281,000. She said buses will be financed over a 5 year period at 2.35% (estimated) with an annual payment of $226,777. She discussed the tax impact with a tax increase of 3 cents. Mrs. Haley said some senior citizens are eligible for a tax freeze and the website for that is https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/. She thanked Mr. Mustelor, Mr. Hart, finance staff, Dr. Grucchio, central administration, board finance committee, district-wide feedback and community comments for helping to put this budget together. She said the budget presentation will be available for everyone to read on the district website.

Mr. Jennings said Mrs. Haley gave a very thorough presentation.

Mr. Medio asked if the Board is voting on this next week. Mrs. Haley responded yes. Mr. Medio asked when Board members get to put their ideas in on changing this budget. Mrs. Haley said they can be vocalized now, during a meeting or through email. Mr. Medio asked if it is true that after the budget is sent to the county line items can only be changed by 10%. Mrs. Haley said the county expects that we are behind this budget when it is submitted to them on March 20th. She said the purpose of the May 1st public hearing is for the public to come out and voice their concerns. If the Board decides to make a change based on the public concerns it could be changed. Mrs. Haley said as of March 20th the Board should be behind the budget. She said you are basically voting on a budget total and tax increase not necessarily the line items.

Mr. Jennings thanked Mrs. Haley for taking time out to attend the meeting last Friday with Senator Sweeney.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispol, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the minutes were approved from February 1, 2017, February 2, 2017 and February 8, 2017. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Bordley who “abstained” on all minutes and Ms. Rios who “abstained” on February 2, 2017.
Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Anthony Carter
Mr. Carter addressed his concerns regarding the repurposing of Landis Intermediate School.

Jeff Martine
Mr. Martine expressed his concern on the conversion of Landis Intermediate School into an office building.

Vicky Miller
Ms. Miller expressed her concern in regards to the closing of Landis Intermediate School and the moving of the district administration office.

Ms. Rios departed the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Ms. Rios returned to the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

R. Alan Mounier
Mr. Mounier spoke about his objection of the proposal to close Landis Intermediate School and the installation of an elevator.

Celeste Maloney
Ms. Maloney expressed her concern in regards to the closing of Landis Intermediate School.

Michael Brosh
Mr. Brosh expressed his concern in regards to having overcrowded middle schools.

Recommendations:
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

1.2 The Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Vineland Board of Education and the Vineland Administrators and Supervisors Association (VASA).

Procedures and Operations (2.1 - 2.2)

2.1 The Board approve field trips and district travel.

2.2 Refer Residency Appel relating to J.K. to committee for the Board to be appointed by the Board President pursuant to Policy 5111.

Buildings and Grounds (3.1-3.5)

3.1 The Board approve a resolution declaring Landis Middle School is no longer needed for educational purposes and authorizing and directing the Superintendent to apply to the NJDOE for permission to close Landis Middle School as an educational facility.
Mr. Medio said if you vote yes on this, which will put 34 to 35 students in a classroom he does not want to hear how we are here for the students. He said this is a move that does not have to be made at this time. He said Landis should have never lost their 6th grade class last year. Mr. Medio said if the new building does not open next year in September you will have two years of these ridiculous numbers in the classrooms. He said there is no reason to put in an elevator now. Mr. Medio said we have the building on the Boulevard for office space. He said in 2017 it is now important for everyone to be under the same roof when you got along for 20 years without everyone under the same roof as far as administrators go. Mr. Medio said it will not do any good to spend a million dollars or do renovating to the Landis building.

Mr. Sbrana said from the beginning he has been opposed to converting Landis School into district offices. He said Landis School is a national historic registered building and should remain a school. Mr. Sbrana said this proposal does nothing to enhance teaching and learning for our children. Mr. Sbrana said as for the renovation costs we know how that can escalate not including the discovery of asbestos and materials that were common in buildings constructed during that era. He suggested other ways to use the money instead of renovations to Landis and said he vote will be “no.”

Ms. Acosta asked if there were projections for cost savings on moving transportation and registration to one location with central administration. Mrs. Haley said if everyone moved into Landis then the Coney building would be empty and she would assume we would sell that building. Ms. Acosta said what improvements would be made to Landis if the building stayed as a school. Mr. Weaver said the school was built in 1927 and we were scheduled for a $14 million gut rehab of that building through the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). He said when the state was short on funds that was cut.
Mr. Weaver said the building does need mechanical upgrades as we go along. He said we put money in the budget for flat roof replacement. Mr. Weaver said the windows, HVAC and mechanicals were replaced. He said beyond that the building is in good shape. Ms. Acosta asked if there needs to be a Board vote for a proposal to go to the Historical Society. Mr. Weaver said we have done submissions in the past and he does not believe it requires Board action.

Ms. Codispoti asked Mr. Frey to clarify the class size. Mr. Frey said he will share the data with her at a future time.

Mrs. Haley said there are 58 full time equivalents currently at Landis and 25 1/2 were cut, which leaves 33 to move with the students.

Mr. DeSanto said if and when the Board votes for permission to close the school then part of the process is the application.

Mr. Medio asked if someone can make sure that the law says we are supposed to do all this before you act on it and not after. Mr. DeSanto said he will look into this.

Mrs. Haley read a letter from Holly Manders stating project authorization through the NJ Historic Preservation Office must be secure prior to commencement of selected demolition in regards to the elevator. She said there are different approval processes.

Mr. DeSanto said the question on the table tonight is whether or not we need pre-approval from the Historic Commission before we can take action to take the school offline. He said that is what we need to find out.
Mr. Medio said there is an old saying “fool me once shame on you fool me twice shame on me.” He said he heard that next month we are going to vote to purchase the Almond Road School for $1.00. Mr. Medio said he is sure we are going to get the approval.

Ms. Codispoti said how she comes to a decision is she looks independently on whatever is being proposed. She is not micromanaging or rubber stamping with a vote of yes or no. Ms. Codispoti said after careful research she is voting for what she feels is best for our students and district. She is concerned over the financial aspect of the renovations, keeping the building as a historical classification and overcrowding of rooms. Ms. Codispoti said no matter what is decided tonight she wants what is best for the district and students and will be behind it. She said that she is very conflicted on the issues that seem to be arising so she is voting “no.”

Mr. Fiocchi said he understands everyone concerns but the main goal here is to move the district forward while consolidating buildings. He said the city wants this building, Coney will be sold and currently Landis is not being used to its full capacity. Mr. Fiocchi said he visited Landis School yesterday and probably 70% of the school is empty. He said it will be better used as an administration building. Mr. Fiocchi said with that being said his vote is “yes.”

Mr. Medio said the reason the school is 70% empty is because the students were taken out by administration. He said the people at Wallace, Rossi and Memorial Schools tell you that they are bursting at the seams. Mr. Medio said he is voting “no.”
Mr. Pagano said he agrees with the comments made by Mr. Fiocchi. He said this was discussed last year and we are only hearing the negatives and not the positives so his vote is “yes.”

Mr. Jennings said this has been discussed for many years to get everyone together under one roof. He said the schools have more students than usual but they are still not at their limit. Mr. Jennings said he is not saying this is ideal but in order for us to move forward sometimes we have to work a little harder, which is what we are doing. He feels this will be best for our district in the long run and within a couple years we will be back in shape once the middle school is built. Mr. Jennings said he is voting “yes.”

3.2 The Board approve a resolution authorizing solicitation of bids at public auction for the public to purchase certain properties (vacant lots) not needed for school purposes.

3.3 The Board approve a resolution authorizing solicitation of bids at public auction for the public to purchase certain properties (buildings and land) not needed for school purposes.
3.4 The Board approve the following NJDOE “Other” projects for schematic and final approval with no state funding requested:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>State Plan #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landis School Central Administration</td>
<td>5390-055-17-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHS South Locker Room Upgrades</td>
<td>5390-050-17-3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.R. Johnstone Secure Entrance</td>
<td>5390-120-17-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Ippolito School Secure Entrance</td>
<td>5390-230-17-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabater/Dallago School Secure Entrance</td>
<td>5390-075-17-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHS North 2017 Partial Roof Replacement</td>
<td>5390-053-17-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHS South 2017 Partial Roof Replacement</td>
<td>5390-050-17-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landis School 2017 Partial Roof Replace</td>
<td>5390-055-17-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHS South Parking Lot Resurfacing</td>
<td>5390-050-17-2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Medio said he will be voting “no” on the Landis School Central Administration Project.
3.5 The Board approve naming of the Vineland High School varsity soccer field in honor of an individual meeting the qualifications of Policy #7250.

Ms. Codispoti said she is happy to see this come to fruition for Coach Klimek and the soccer team.

Mr. Jennings thanked Ms. Codispoti for proposing this and bringing it back to the Board.

Mr. Sbrana echoed the comments made by Ms. Codispoti and said that this honor is well deserved.

Finance (4.1 - 4.9)

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

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

4.3 The Board approve Special Education student placements.
4.4 The Board approve to accept the following funding:
2017 National School Lunch Program Equipment
Assistant Grant
Cunningham Alternative School $18,895.00
Wallace Middle School 18,494.00
Johnstone Elementary School 19,494.00
Mennies Elementary School 4,833.90
Sabater Elementary School 5,469.00
Winslow Elementary School 4,833.90
Total $71,019.80

4.5 The Board approve the addendum to the State of New
Jersey Nutrition Programs Local Education Agency
(LEA) Agreement of The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
Program.

4.6 The Board approve a professional service contract with
Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. for design,
survey, & permitting/regulatory compliance services
for synthetic turf improvements at Gittone Stadium for
a fee of $36,000, subject to a form of agreement
acceptable to the Superintendent and Board Solicitor.

Mr. DeSanto said the proposal that came from
Suburban Consulting Engineers (SCE) was in his
view very objectionable and there were provisions
that were not included. He said that he submitted a
five page review summary to Mrs. Haley who sent it
on to SCE. Mr. DeSanto said late this afternoon we
received a letter indicating that they did not accept
his changes and are insisting upon their original
proposal and terms/conditions as written. He said
he does not believe the original proposal is in the
best interest of the district and did not contain
insurance provisions or proper indemnification.
Mr. DeSanto advises against accepting this
proposal.
Mr. Medio asked if we can approve this with the stipulation that it is made acceptable to the Solicitor. Mr. DeSanto said yes that will give him the opportunity, if they are willing to talk, to bring this back in April.

Mr. Sbrana asked if we could look at a standard contract for this type of work to see how it varies from what is typical for that type of industry. Mr. DeSanto said the standard contract comes from the American Institute of Architects and National Engineers Group. He said those contracts are standard but are prepared in favor of the professionals. Mr. DeSanto said when you represent an owner as we are we look for protections, which include insurance, indemnification etc. He said yes there are standard contracts but they are pro-industry as opposed to pro-owner. Mr. DeSanto assured the Board that it is not his intention that this contract does not get approved but to make sure the provisions are for the protection of the district.

4.7 The Board approve a professional service contract for Epic Environmental for soils sampling, testing and evaluation at the football field in the amount of $2,200.
4.8 The Board approve the following in regards to the Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation:


   b. 2016-2017 Contracts for the Cumberland County Regional Cooperative:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Per Diem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-186</td>
<td>CJ’s Bus Service</td>
<td>$157.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-189</td>
<td>CJ’s Bus Service</td>
<td>$124.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-192</td>
<td>B.R. Williams</td>
<td>$ 92.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-194</td>
<td>CJ’s Bus Service</td>
<td>$228.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-187</td>
<td>Jaz Transportation, LLC</td>
<td>$144.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-200</td>
<td>CJ’s Bus Service</td>
<td>$289.00</td>
</tr>
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4.9 The Board approve the following bids:
   a. Vineland High School North - Toilet Room
      Renovations Bid #10-17
      R. Maxwell Construction
      206 W. Delilah Road
      Pleasantville, NJ 08232
      In the amount of .............$164,213

   b. Landis Intermediate School Elevator Bid #08-17
      Levy Construction Company
      134 Cuthbert Blvd #A
      Audubon, NJ 08106
      In the amount of .........................$336,600
      Contingent on receipt of approval from the NJ
      Historic Preservation Office.

Mr. Medio said he will be voting “no” on the elevator bid because the cost is ludicrous.

Ms. Codispoti said $336,000 is a lot of money. She understands that we could use an elevator at Landis but she also knows that money could be used to increase the size of our Dance Academy or maybe a possible expansion of the arts wing. Ms. Codispoti said she is not convinced that spending $336,600 on an elevator is appropriate so she will be voting “no.”
Regular Agenda

9. b. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: Approval of a resolution appointing and setting additional daily compensation for an Acting Superintendent in the absence of the Superintendent.

Mr. Medio asked what the time frame is on this. Mr. Jennings said through April 30th or upon the return of active employment. Mr. Medio said he thought we were told it was 4 weeks.

Mr. DeSanto reminded the Board that his opinion last week stands in terms of advising them that if 4 Board members are conflicted from appointing or evaluating the Superintendent then they are conflicted from appointing an Acting superintendent. He said Mr. Fiocchi, Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti and Mr. Medio are conflicted so the remaining 5 Board members are eligible to vote.

Mr. Medio asked if the absolute majority rule applies. Mr. DeSanto said you have a quorum to vote. He said that may apply to the hiring of personnel not necessarily the appointment of an employee who is already here.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, to approve a resolution appointing and setting additional daily compensation for an Acting Superintendent in the absence of the superintendent. All Members voted “yes” except Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, and Mr. Medio who were conflicted. (5-0-0)

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. Bordley who “abstained.” ($7,927,209.42).

Emergent Item(s) (with prior approval)

None.

Public:

None.

Report/Remarks by Board President:

Mr. Jennings appointed the following to the Ad Hoc Residency Committee: Ms. Codispoti, chair, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Sbrana, and himself.
Ms. Acosta said the students being moved out of Landis School to other middle schools is a temporary situation until our new middle school opens. She said we will be saving $1,753,332, which is extremely important because there is so much uncertainty with respect to the school funding formula. Ms. Acosta said there is going to be a change and we will be affected so we need to be ready.

Ms. Codispoti wished Dr. Gruccio and Mr. Bordley speedy recoveries. She thanked Ms. Johnson and congratulated her students along with Ms. Monahan and her staff and students. Ms. Codispoti thanked Mrs. Haley and her staff for everything they do with the budget. She wished the students good luck tomorrow with the Science Fair. Ms. Codispoti announced that Golan is having their Fun Fair on April 1st. She thanked the schools for allowing her to read to their classes for Read Across America.

Mr. Medio said there was a nice article in the newspaper about Mr. Pagano. He congratulated him on getting a job in Florida and hopes he enjoys himself. Mr. Medio said when you put something in the newspaper it should be correct and he quoted Mr. Pagano’s remarks in the newspaper. He said if Mr. Pagano came to a meeting once in a while he would know that last week he made it very clear that the million dollars for the turf field is not in the budget. Mr. Medio discussed how the turf field will benefit over 500 students.

Mr. Pagano addressed the interview that he gave to the newspaper.

Ms. Rios thanked the Daily Journal for keeping us informed on what is taking place in this district.

Mr. Bordley signed off at 8:01 p.m.

Mr. Sbrana congratulated the staff and students from Veterans Memorial and Rossi School. He wished Mr. Bordley and Dr. Gruccio speedy recoveries.

Mr. Frangipani thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as Acting Superintendent in Dr Gruccio’s absence and wished her a speedy recovery. He said we have a great team and will continue to work with parents, students, teachers and principals to make sure our schools are safe and children have the opportunity to learn.
Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary