

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 11, 2015 at 7:04 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. DeWinne, on business trip and Mr. DiGiorgio, ill.

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.

Resolution: None.

Flag Salute: Students from Johnstone Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Wayne Weaver, Executive Director of Facilities, to honor maintenance workers for their dedication to Vineland Public Schools.

Mr. Weaver said the maintenance workers are the essential staff who have to report to work the day of a snow storm. He said the maintenance workers do a fantastic job cleaning up the sidewalks and parking lots. Mr. Weaver said we have a good team in place, which makes his job a lot easier. He recognized and presented certificates to the maintenance workers.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Joseph Callavini, Transportation and Registration Coordinator, to honor the transportation mechanics for their dedication to Vineland Public Schools.

Mr. Callavini said the mechanics could not attend tonight's meeting but wanted Mr. Callavini to thank the Board on their behalf. He read each of the transportation mechanic's names.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Purvesh Patel, Director of Food Services, to honor the Vineland Public School 5-Star Award winners.

Mr. Patel recognized and introduced each of the 5-Star Award winners.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Vanessa Rasmussen, Vineland High School English Department Chair, to honor students who won in the regional Poetry Out Loud competition.

Ms. Rasmussen thanked the Board for supporting the Poetry Out Loud Program. She said it is a great experience for the students and they learn a lot. Ms. Rasmussen introduced Angela Benson, School & Regional Champion. Miss Benson shared her poem.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Angel D'Ottavio, Vineland High School teacher, to honor the students who won medals in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Conference.

Ms. D'Ottavio said HOSA allows students, who are interested in the healthcare field, to explore the various careers open to them in the industry. She said it also allows them to compete in competitive events. Ms. D'Ottavio said recently they attended the Southern Regional HOSA Conference and 11 of our students won medals. She introduced each of the students.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Daplyn, Petway School teacher and Police Chief Tim Codispoti, to honor students and staff who participated in the Pennies for Pups campaign.

Chief Codispoti said a while ago our community realized that we had a need for bullet proof vests for the Vineland Police Department's canine dogs. He said Debby Marko, Reporter from the *Daily Journal*, along with Petway Elementary School students, were major contributors to this campaign raising over \$7,000. He said without them we would not have been able to purchase the vests. Ms. Daplyn spoke on behalf of Petway Elementary School. She thanked Officer Pagano for working so closely with them along with Debby Marko for coming to them with a mission. Ms. Daplyn introduced staff members and students.

Dr. Gruccio said we have a group of students here this evening from the Math/Science Academy at Veterans Memorial School as part of a project that they are doing.

Miss Schultz, Veterans Memorial School student, said they are involved in the Project Citizen Program which is finding projects around the community and trying to come up with solutions to fix them.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Acosta, the minutes were approved from January 14, 2015. All Members voted “yes.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Acosta, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month January of 2015, 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.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$5,081,948.77).

Emergent Item(s)

(with prior approval) Ms. Morello said the policy on trips needs to be addressed.

Mr. DeSanto said there are two policies involved and they are field trips and class trips. He said the class trip policy is a social event and field trips are generally connected to the educational piece of the school. Mr. DeSanto said when a policy involves a class trip that indicates the class trip should not affect the 180 day student schedule. He said this means you can only have a class trip on a weekend or Christmas break. Mr. DeSanto said he does not think that was the intention of the Board. He said if the seniors are going on a three day class trip then it would be an excused absence. Mr. DeSanto said the class trip policy needs to be visited by the committee and addressed as soon as possible. He said this may require that the presentation for the senior class trip be given in May by the class advisor.

Public: None.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. Jennings thanked the bus drivers for all they do.

Ms. Morello said tonight is the kind of night that makes one happy to be a Board member. She congratulated the middle school players for a job well done and hopes everyone supports the high school in their play *Legally Blonde*.

Ms. Codispoti congratulated all the students and staff for caring about what they do and is proud of everyone.

Ms. Acosta echoed the sentiments of Ms. Morello and Ms. Codispoti on the student accomplishments. She welcomed the Academy students.

Ms. Rios congratulated the Johnstone School students for the flag salute and students who received awards. She thanked the parents for their involvement, which is an asset to their child’s education.

Dr. Guccio said hopefully winter is done and over with. She thanked all of our bus drivers, Mr. Sbrana, Mr. Callavini and maintenance workers for their hard work during the snow storm. Dr. Guccio said at last week's meeting the Board asked her to look into the possibility of busing all students in the district. She said it would require an additional 1.3 million dollars to bus all students. Dr. Guccio said she would do her part in trying to carry the Board's message. She said PARCC testing has been a big issue and quite stressful on our teachers because this is the first year. Dr. Guccio said she surveyed all the principals on how the PARCC testing process has been going. She said she asked the principals to rate the process from 1 to 5 and was very pleased that nearly everyone was a 3 ½ or 4. Dr. Guccio said the comments received were mainly the frustration in dealing with the Pearson Company. She said we only had 4 students out of 11,000 in the district that refused to take the test. Dr. Guccio thanked everyone who gave the test a chance. She congratulated all the students who are involved in the middle school play along with Mr. Calakos, Ryan Headley, Ken Schultz and Veronica Davis. Dr. Guccio said 8th Grade Dialogue will be held on March 18th at 6:00 p.m. and all four of our schools are represented. She said on March 26th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Wallace Middle School we are going to have our Future Chefs Competition. Dr. Guccio said we need three judges from the Board for the competition.

Ms. Rios asked when they will get the PARCC results. Mr. Frey said they are estimating October.

Ms. Morello asked when the Board will receive a presentation on the test scores. Dr. Guccio said if we do not receive the results until October then it will probably be in November. Ms. Morello asked about the NJ Report Card. Dr. Guccio said we can have a presentation on that too.

Ms. Acosta asked if the results will be a combination of the test taken now and in May. Mr. Frey said yes it will be a combination.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English said we just celebrated Read Across America month and with the weather conditions he was not able to attend any. He thanked his fellow Board members for communicating well. Mr. English said he heard comments that our Board meetings may be a bit too long but they have been quality.

Mr. English said that he has no problem with a four or five hour meeting as long as the information is geared towards the students. He said the play *Annie Jr.* was first class and he loved every minute of it. Mr. English announced that the play *Legally Blonde* will be held this Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at Vineland High School. He thanked Dr. Guccio for the PARCC update. Mr. English congratulated Dr. Guccio on becoming a grandparent. He announced that Bubble Day will be held at Winslow Elementary School on April 1st. Mr. English thanked the bus drivers for doing an outstanding job on getting our students to school safely.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Rios, the Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:df

