

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 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mrs. Phillips.

Also present: Dr. Banks, Superintendent, Dr. Guccio, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Schneider, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Barber, Interim Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. Ulrich 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.

Flag Salute: Morina Harris-Bell, Nyla Harris, Nicole Martinez, Gabriel Menz, Fredi Paredes, Jonathan Perez, Christopher Peters, Allen Roberts and Ian Simek, students from Veterans Memorial School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Presentation (s): None.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by, seconded by, the minutes were approved from February 1, 2012 and February 8, 2012. All Members voted "yes" except for Dr. Mounier who voted "yes" but said at the February 8, 2012 meeting he spoke in support of the private preschool providers in this district and Mr. Ulrich who voted "yes" for the February 8, 2012 minutes and "abstained" on the February 1, 2012 minutes.

Report of the Secretary/Custodian of School Monies: No report provided.

Solicitor's Report: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

The board recessed into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

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

1. Approval of the award of a maximum of sixty and one half (60.5) paid sick days through June 30, 2012 for the individual whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board in accordance with the provisions in N.J.S.A. 18A:30-6.

A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to award a maximum of sixty and one half (60.5) paid sick days through June 30, 2012 for the individual whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board in accordance with the provisions in N.J.S.A. 18A:30-6. All Members voted yes.

2. Approval of an intermittent leave through June 30, 2012 for paid sick days, not to exceed sixty (60) days, for the individual whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:30-6.

A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to approve an intermittent leave through June 30, 2012 for paid sick days, not to exceed sixty (60) days, for the individual whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. A. 18A:30-6. All Members voted “yes.”

3. Approve a Resolution authorizing the appointment of Dr. Mary Gruccio as Interim Superintendent of Schools, for a period of April 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012 and as Superintendent of Vineland Public Schools, for a period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 subject to the approval by the Executive County Superintendent of a negotiated employment agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to approve a Resolution authorizing the appointment of Dr. Mary Gruccio as Interim Superintendent of Schools, for a period of April 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012 and as Superintendent of Vineland Public Schools, for a period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 subject to the approval by the Executive County Superintendent of a negotiated employment agreement. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Medio and Dr. Mounier who voted “no.”

Dr. Guccio thanked those who believe in her and giving her this opportunity. She said that she will give 100 percent and looks forward to working with the board and all the people in our district to make decisions together based on what is good for our children.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$8,302,902.32).

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

Public: Lee Burke, Vineland Resident
Mr. Burke expressed his thanks to Dr. Banks for the service that she has provided to the district and wished her the best of luck. He welcomed Dr. Guccio as superintendent and hopes the board will learn to work in a more cooperative way. Mr. Burke recommended repeating televised board meetings on the weekend. He hopes that the board can relate what they expect from the next leader for our community and board. Mr. Burke said governance issues for this board are challenging and board members are examples of what leaders should be and have to be impartial.

Wendi Carlon-Wolfe, Vineland Resident
Mrs. Wolfe expressed her concern that she was informed that she could not file a grievance on behalf of her son, Matthew Wolfe. She disagrees with this decision because according to Policy #5710, adopted by the Board on June 9, 2010, she has every right to file this grievance on behalf of her son. Mrs. Wolfe said this grievance was based upon the inappropriate actions of an administrator by permitting a Vineland High School student, who is now a senior ranked in the top two of her graduating class, to take a non-weighted course outside of Vineland High School and replace it with a weighted course. She said as a direct result of the actions of this administrator her son’s class rank has gone down. Mrs. Wolfe is requesting for the board to take action immediately to correct this situation.

Carol Deola, Director /Owner of All Kids First
Ms. Deola thanked Dr. Mounier for supporting the private providers. She explained to the board how the provider funding is used. Ms. Deola said that she has never used the 2.5% line of profit for herself and has always given it back to the center.

Ms. Deola said in the past Vineland had parental choice for their parents and would appreciate if the board would give parental choice back to the parents. Ms. Deola said she believes in making parents happy because when parents are happy it makes their life easier. She said if she can help the district to save money All Kids First is ready.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio said today he received an email from Dr. McCann and was impressed by his desire to keep the board in the loop on changes and progress as far as the 9/10-11/12 configuration. He expects him to be successful and receive all of the cooperation that he needs from central office. Mr. Medio said no disrespect to Mrs. Wolfe but he is really tired of hearing about this issue and expects the board to take some action next week because the Wolfe's deserve an answer one way or another. He said as far as Ms. Deola's comments in regards to preferential choice it should be about 40%.

Dr. Mounier said it seems to him that Mrs. Wolfe makes a powerful argument concerning the injustice of the way the system has operated. He agrees with Mr. Medio and thinks it is time to clear this business up.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he agrees with Mr. Medio and Dr. Mounier in regard to Mrs. Wolfe's concern and thinks it is about time for the board to address it. He agrees with Mrs. Deola comments and supports some form of parental choice. Mr. DiGiorgio said he continues to maintain an objective impartial mentality on his decision making with respect to the items that this board sees every week. He congratulated and wished Dr. Guccio the best.

Mr. Fanucci wished Dr. Banks well on her retirement and thanked her for her service to the district. He congratulated and wished Dr. Guccio the best in her new role. Mr. Fanucci said in would like additional information in regards to Mrs. Deola's comments in regards to parental choice. Ms. Rios said that would be something that Mrs. Bleistine or the assistant principal can comment on. She said Dr. Schneider is working on research in regards to parental choice and as soon as all the data is received it can be addressed at a board meeting.

Mr. English agreed with the board in regards to Mrs. Wolfe's concerns. He announced that the VHS Cap N Dagger will be performing the musical *Beauty and the Beast* on March 15th, 16th and 17th at 7:00 p.m. with a matinee at 2:00 p.m. on March 17th. Mr. English said all four middle schools will be performing *Lil Abner* on March 23rd and 24th at 7:00 p.m. and there will be a 2:00 p.m. matinee on March 25th in the Veterans Memorial School auditorium. On March 22nd in the VHS gymnasium at 7:00 p.m. the district Instrumental Pop Concert will be held. Mr. English said D'Ippolito Elementary School will be hosting the 14th Annual District Wide Art Exhibit on Friday March 30th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He wished Dr. Banks the best of luck on her retirement. Mr. English congratulated Dr. Gruccio and looks forward to working with her. He thanked Mr. Weaver and Mr. Farinaccio for their persistency in getting the Vineland High School South HVAC as an emergent project. Mr. English thanked Ms. Deola for the passion she exhibits for her school, students, staff and parents.

Mr. Mercado offered his condolences to his friend, Pearl Giordano, on the passing of her son Staff Sergeant Gerry Giordano. He wished a speedy recovery to Assemblyman Nelson Albano. Mr. Mercado reminded everyone that this weekend the Vineland Fire Department will be having a breakfast at the North Italy Club from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He congratulated and wished the best to Dr. Gruccio. Mr. Mercado thanked Dr. Banks for her service and wished her the best.

Ms. Rios thanked the Veterans Memorial School students for the flag salute. She thanked Ms. Deola for speaking. Ms. Rios congratulated Dr. Gruccio on her new position. She thanked Ms. Candy Diaz for filling in as the personnel director. Ms. Rios wished Dr. Banks good luck and thanked her for her service to the district. She congratulated and thanked Mr. Weaver and his staff along with former board member, Allan Bernardini, for the new heating and air conditioning system at Vineland High School South.

Mr. Ulrich said he will have a meeting with Dr. Banks, Dr. Gruccio and Mr. DiDomenico in regards to Mrs. Wolfe's concerns. He said you have to keep in mind that this was a granted piece and if the board overturns an honor student would not graduate.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich wished the new business administrator the best of luck and looks forward to working with her. He said there has been no conversation about doing away with the preschools and thanked Ms. Deola for coming forward. Mr. Ulrich said it has been a pleasure to get to know Dr. Banks and she did the best she can for the district. He said Dr. Banks has high integrity and has not always received support from the board in trying to move the district forward. Mr. Ulrich said he knows that his friendship with Dr. Banks will continue past this district. Mr. Ulrich said that he has complete confidence and support in Dr. Guccio. The message that the board sent with five votes is that we need some stabilization and someone who truly cares about the district.

Dr. Banks thanked everyone for their comments. She thanked the board for the opportunity and privilege to serve the district. Dr. Banks said the administrators and teachers are doing an outstanding job and it has been a privilege to work with them. She thanked Mrs. Barber and Dr. Schneider for the tremendous job they are doing to help central office. Dr. Banks congratulated Dr. Guccio. She knows that Dr. Guccio is a very hard worker, cares about Vineland and will do the best she can for the students. Dr. Banks thanked everyone for their support and will keep everybody in her thoughts and prayers.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Barber
Interim Board Secretary

DB:df

