The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Landis Administration Building Auditorium, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 5:10 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Sbrana (by phone), Ms. Spinelli, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Medio.

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 Communidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute: Students from Mennies Elementary 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 pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If pending/anticipated litigation the matter is Lovcchio Lawsuit and if contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is the John F. Scarpa Revocable Trust for the acquisition of the Oak & Main property. 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 VEA Step 3 Grievance Hearing sick leave payout and Military Pay Arbitration. 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. Fiocchi, seconded by Mr. Holmes, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes.”

The Board recessed to executive session at 5:14 p.m.

Mr. Medio arrived at the executive session at 5:27 p.m.

Mr. Sbrana disconnected from phone during executive session.

Mr. Sbrana reconnected at 6:10 p.m.

The combined meeting resumed at 6:10 p.m.

Special Presentation(s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Purvesh Patel, Director of Food Service, to honor the 2017 Vineland Health Department Five Star Award recipients.

Mr. Patel said every year hundreds of food establishments are inspected by the Vineland Health Department. He said only a handful are selected for the Five Star Award. Mr. Patel said in order to be selected senior cooks must go above and beyond the general food safety practices. Mr. Patel introduced each of the senior cooks who received the Five Star Award for their school.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Cathy DeMarco, Vineland High School Teacher, to present a 12 day European Educational Tour opportunity.

Mrs. DeMarco discussed the 12 day European Educational Tour that students, staff and some family members would like to take during spring break of 2019.

Mr. Ulrich said that this sounds like a great program.
Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Terry Kuhnreich, Vineland High School Teacher, to showcase students that participated in the Search for Conscience NJ Classroom Close-Up.

Mrs. Kuhnreich said thanks to the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) we were given an incredible opportunity. She said they asked if we wanted to have a Skype session on television with Ben Ferencz, which was a tremendous experience. Mrs. Kuhnreich said Ben Ferencz is the last living prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials. She played the audio Skype that she along with her students had with Mr. Ferencz. Mrs. Kuhnreich’s students discussed the impact that Mr. Ferencz made on them.

Student Liaison Report:

Dr. Gruccio introduced Senior Class President, Jose Mateo, to present the Student Liaison Report.

Mr. Mateo presented an update on the various activities happening at Vineland High School.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Helen Haley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, to present the FY 2018-2019 Budget proposal.

Mrs. Haley reviewed the budget process to date that began in October with a meeting with the Finance Committee. She said it appears that we will receive flat funding this year, which means we will receive the same funding in fiscal year 2019 as the previous year to uphold the Governor’s strong commitment to education. Mrs. Haley said revenue minus appropriations equals a balanced budget. She reviewed what the revenue side of the budget is comprised of along with a breakdown of all the revenue line items. Mrs. Haley said 77.2% of our budget is funded by state aid. She said we are trying to reduce the state aid portion and increase our local tax levy to show that we are making an attempt.
Mrs. Haley said the other side of our budget is the appropriations or the expenditure side. She said each year when the budget process is started we know there are certain items that our going to increase such as salaries, health benefit premiums, charter and technical school tuition, which will exceed the revenue if we stay flat. Mrs. Haley explained each of the appropriation line items. She said our goal is to balance programmatic and financial sides. Mrs. Haley addressed the budget approach and highlights for the 2018-2019 budget. She reviewed the capital outlay budget of $2,098,000.00. Mrs. Haley said buses and vehicles will be financed over 5 years at 3% (estimated) with an annual payment of $167,115. She said this year there will be a 4% tax increase, which equates to a $0.029 increase on the tax rate with an annual increase of $46.85 per home based on the average assessment of $159,402. She said that some senior citizens are eligible for a tax freeze and the website for that is http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/. Mrs. Haley thanked the business office along with Mr. Musterel, Mr. Hart, Dr. Gruccio, central administration, board finance committee district-wide feedback and community comments for all their help with the budget.

Mr. Ulrich asked how a member of the public would get a copy of the actual budget. Mrs. Haley said it usually comes when we advertise the budget because currently it is very preliminary. She said after it is submitted to the county for their review an advertised budget would be put in the newspaper. Mr. Ulrich asked how we receive public input if the public cannot see the budget. Mrs. Haley said they can voice their concerns at the public hearing after the advertised budget is in the newspaper. She said this presentation will be shared on our website. Mr. Ulrich asked if the Board has the ability to approve a 1% additional tax to go to a specific project. Mrs. Haley said it would have to be put out for a vote as a separate question you cannot earmark a tax levy for a certain item unless you pull it out of the budget as a separate vote. She said doing that is sometimes risky but you do get the voice of the public.

HIB Report: No discussion.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the minutes were approved from February 14, 2018 Executive Session and Combined Meeting. Mr. Jennings noted that he was not present at the February 14th executive session and he is listed as present. All Members voted “yes.”
Solicitor's Report: Mr. DeSanto said currently it appears that we will be closing by the end of March or week after on the Plum Street property. He said we have a couple of outstanding items being addressed. Mr. DeSanto said one item is that we are finalizing the agreement for the district’s continued use of the networks operation center in the basement. He said under our sale agreement we are going to continue to use the network center until the equipment is phased out and brought over to Landis. Mr. DeSanto said there are also some loose ends in terms of the move.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Sandra Arsenault
Ms. Arsenault expressed her concern in regards to the nursing cuts.

Kathleen Bianco
Ms. Bianco said her son who attends the high school is a type I diabetic. She shared some statistics on type I diabetes and expressed her concern on the nursing cuts.

Rhonda Curcio
Ms. Curcio expressed concern in regards to her transfer.

Carrie Ellis
Ms. Ellis expressed her concern in regards to the nursing transfer and her daughter who is diabetic.

Sheryle Mulcahy
Ms. Mulcahy said she is here tonight to support all the parents, nurses and children in the district. She also expressed concern in regards to the nursing transfer.

Michelle Ogren
Ms. Ogren said she is here tonight to support Rhonda Curcio in regards to her transfer to Cunningham School.

Jennifer Pilla
Ms. Pilla spoke in support of naming the Lincoln Avenue Middle School after her brother, Sergeant Dominic Pilla.
Ruth Barreiro
Ms. Barreiro spoke in support of the student walk out. She also spoke about having armed guards in the schools. Ms. Barreiro said that she does not support the 46 positions that are being cut.

William Dare
Mr. Dare spoke in support of armed guards in the schools.

Vicky Miller
Ms. Miller said in reference to armed guards she feels we should be proactive instead of reactive. She opposes Johnstone Elementary School being changed to an AMSA School.

Mr. Ulrich said what Ms. Miller was discussing was not on the agenda and would need to wait until the end of the meeting.

Joshua Barreiro
Mr. Barreiro spoke about having armed guards in the schools and feels that it causes more harm than good.

Chuck Capelli
Mr. Capelli spoke in support of naming the middle school after Sergeant Domenic Pilla.

Judith Ciarlante Talarico
Ms. Talarico spoke in support of naming the middle school after her father, Salvatore Ciarlante.

Tracey Wells Huggins
Ms. Huggins spoke against having armed guards in the 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

Mr. Ulrich asked what the status is of the lead supervisory nurse. Dr. Rossi addressed the lack of qualified applicants for this position. Mr. Ulrich asked if it were possible to hire a lead nurse instead of supervisory nurse. Dr. Rossi said there would be a collective bargaining issue with doing that. Mr. Ulrich said we as a district should never cut back on safety issues. He said if a student's continuity of health services is interrupted because we are pulling a nurse out of a building that is a big liability for the district.

PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1-2.2)

2.1 The Board approve trips and district travel.

2.2 The Board approve vendors whose names are on file with the Board Secretary selected for the Project Graduation trip scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2018 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(18).
2.3 The Board approve the submission to the Executive County Superintendent the 2017-2018 NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) and the Chief School Administrator’s Statement of Assurance attesting to the accuracy of the responses in the report to the best of her knowledge.

2.4 The Board approve the first reading of the following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations:

Policy 5330.04
Administering an Opioid Antidote

Policy 7510-Revise Copy 02.07.18
Use of School Facilities

2.5 The Board approve the second reading of the following Bylaws, Policies and Regulations:

Mandated Changes
Regulation R5460.1 High School Transcripts (revised)
Policy P7440 School District Security (revised)
Regulation R7440 School District Security (revised)
Policy P7441 Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings (revised)
Regulation R7441 Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings (revised)
Policy P8507 Breakfast Offer Versus Serve (OVS) (revised)
Policy P8630 Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility (revised)
Regulation R8630 Emergency School Bus Procedures (revised)
Mr. Medio said he is to understand that these are mandated policies and regardless of the vote will still go into effect. Dr. Gruccio said yes the policies that fall under mandated. Mr. Medio asked if any of these policies came from our Policy & Personnel Committee. Mr. Frangipani said they were all discussed at the Policy & Personnel meeting and the mandated policies are a directive.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (none)

3.1 The Board approve a request by a member of the public to rename the Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Mr. DeSanto said the appropriate motion under our policy is whether or not the Board authorizes the renaming of the Lincoln Avenue Middle School after a qualified individual under our policy. He said if you vote “yes” then the policy is invoked and Mrs. Haley would proceed with advertisement. Mr. DeSanto said if you vote “no” the matter ends here.

FINANCE (4.1-4.11)

4.1 The Board approve budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for January 2018.

4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for January 2018.
### Vineland Board of Education
Report to the Board – March 14, 2018

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#### 4.3
The Board approve the placement of Special Education students.

#### 4.4
The Board approve submission of the following grant application:

a. The FY 2018 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Application Amendment to the State of New Jersey Department of Education from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 for Title I SIA Part A in the amount of $288,829.

#### 4.5
The Board approve the acceptance of the following funding:

a. Kohls Grant for Breakfast with Santa at Mennies Elementary School in the amount of $500.

b. Slow Food South Jersey Shore School Garden Grant for Winslow Elementary School in the amount of $500.

c. 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCCL) Addendum for Wallace Middle School from January 2018 through August 2018 in the amount of $7,121.

#### 4.6
The Board approve the Shared Services Agreement between the Cumberland County Improvement Authority and Vineland Board of Education for automobile/light truck maintenance and repair services at a rate of $52.75 an hour with parts being provided at cost and the use of NJ State Contract Vendors to obtain the required parts necessary for said repairs.

All Members voted “yes.”

(9-0-0)
4.7 The Board approve to award the following contract: Number Two Sulfur Diesel Fuel Oil (Bid #09-18/19) for the term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 with an option to renew two one-year terms or one two-year term for a maximum of a three-year term:
Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel Oil – Bid #09-18/19
Contractor: Riggins, Inc.
3938 S. Main Road
Vineland, NJ 08360
Total Bid Amount: Paulsboro, NJ **OPIS Gros Ultra Low Sulfur Distillate Daily Price ** $+87 Estimated annual usage $569,984.00.

4.8 The Board approve Change Order #002 from Levy Construction Company for the installation of additional fire alarm devices to the Landis Administration Building elevator in the amount of $2,322.83 to be funded by the contingency allowance.

4.9 The Board approve Change Order #02-0 from LandTek Group, Inc. for an upgrade to the synthetic turf infill to “cool play” in the amount of $54,745.80.

Mr. Ulrich said we have to use restraint for over spending on our sports facilities. He said this additional money can be used to pay down a loan that we should have never got. Mr. Ulrich said he believes that the state looked at the fact that we are spending a couple million dollars on a lease purchase for a field when they took the two million dollars away.
Mr. Jennings said three students who play football for our district have full scholarships to three different colleges, which total just under a million dollars. He said you cannot put a price on that. Mr. Jennings said we have worked very hard to put this football program as well as other programs together. He said we try to help each area of our district all the time and we do the best we can with what we got.

Mr. Medio said he echoes the comments made by Mr. Jennings. He said his philosophy from now on is to reward success. Mr. Medio said when something is a success, like our football program, and a new system is out there that will improve the field itself he will vote yes for it. He said if there are programs in the district that do not continuously require additional money and no improvement in student learning or behavior is shown he will look at them very closely when he votes.

Mr. Holmes said the students were awarded the scholarships because of the program that we provide not because of the turf or field that the students play on.

Ms. Acosta agrees that in these fiscal times it is difficult to vote on something that does not directly impact the educational needs of our students. However when it comes to student safety she is an advocate for making sure we do whatever we can to keep our children safe. Ms. Acosta expressed her concern that there have been multiple lawsuits against school districts that have synthetic turf fields where students have received severe burns when cool play was not added to the field. She said that is the reason why she will be voting for the cool play.
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4.10 The Board approve the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:

- 2017-2018 Transportation Contracts
- 2017-2018 Transportation Addenda

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)
B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” ($10,791,938.04).

Committee Reports: Mr. Ulrich said discussed at tonight’s Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was a recommendation for a policy to the Board to eliminate class rank for the 2020 school year. He said they were also updated on executive session personnel matters.

Ms. Acosta said discussed at the February 26th Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting was eliminating class rank, the grading system, articulation agreement between Rowan University and the Vineland School District, Comprehensive Support and Improvement Team (CSIT) meeting, and Service Learning.

Item(s) proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board members:

Mr. Thomas Ulrich, Board Member, is requesting discussion regarding Enhanced Security Measures and Armed Retired Law Enforcement Officers.

Mr. Ulrich thanked Tracey Huggins, Ruth Barreiro and Bill Dare for speaking about armed officers in our schools. He said tonight he is going to introduce a proposal to place retired law enforcement officers in our schools protecting our entry and exit points. Mr. Ulrich said he knows that this is an emotional topic for many but we must do everything within our means to ensure that our schools are safe havens. He said that he has asked Dr. Gruccio to appropriate money in the budget to start a program to support additional training opportunities for our current security staff and adapt a hybrid approach to having armed retired law enforcement officers. Mr. Ulrich is asking Board members to support this endeavor and approach it with the same vigor that they have with many current projects approved by this Board.

Mr. Jennings would like to know if having armed guards in the schools could be put to a vote for the citizens of the City of Vineland to approve.
Mr. Medio said he is not in favor or opposed to having armed guards in the schools. He thinks this involves a lot of discussion. Mr. Medio said we have teachers and custodians who are qualified to carry and conceal. He said if you are going to do this you have to consider everything. Mr. Medio said we definitely need some public input on this.

Mr. Ulrich said the State of New Jersey has some of the toughest concealed carry laws in the country. He said there are very few people in our entire state that have a carry permit. Mr. Ulrich said there is no situation where teachers are going to be armed unless the federal government tries to invoke the states to do something, which is not going to happen in New Jersey. He said the public elected each of us to use our best judgment, set policy and put programs into place. Mr. Ulrich said he welcomes public input but to wait until something happens he does not see the point. He said the safety committee is going to meet with the Mayor and Police Chief the end of March and the Mayor supports this measure. Mr. Ulrich said if we have 2 million dollars to spend on our athletic field we can come up with $350,000 a year to enhance our security. He said this proposal also includes a training opportunity for our current security staff and armed security is a small segment of the piece of the puzzle.

Dr. Gruccio mentioned that Mr. Frangipani has a safety meeting each month and for the March meeting we have invited the Police Chief, Mayor, Sheriff, Safety Director, and Board President to discuss what we have in place now and how we can improve. She said we will also have representation from some of the schools who have armed guards in place. Dr. Gruccio said after that meeting Mr. Frangipani can report back to the Board on what the discussion and input was.

Mr. Jennings said he hopes that we could look into some type of federal grant that may be available for security.

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

Public:
Vickie Miller
Ms. Miller said she is opposed to Johnstone Elementary School being turned into an AMSA School
Jeff Martine
Mr. Martine spoke about his opposition of the closing of Max Leuchter Elementary School and the repurposing of Johnstone Elementary School.

Ruth Barreiro
Ms. Barreiro expressed her concern that students could feel intimidated with a police presence or feel that school is not for them. She said that last year she was a teacher at the Cumberland County Technical Center and students did not feel safer when armed guards were put there.

Tracey Wells Huggins
Ms. Huggins spoke about the Dignity in Schools Campaign.

Isaac Rodriguez
Mr. Rodriguez said he is a student at Vineland High School and spoke about the student walk-out. He claimed that Sandra Myers, Vice Principal, suspended students today for the walkout and feels she does not have the right to do that. Mr. Rodriguez said we need classes or clubs demonstrating the rights we have as students. He said it is time for the Board to stop spending pointless money on turf and more money on students.

Ferdinand Moscat
Mr. Moscat said he did not participate in the walk out but witnessed it and was very proud to be a Vineland High School student. He said that he is the sophomore class president and has been accepted in the summer program at NYU, which is a very prestigious program. Mr. Moscat said as a sophomore he was not eligible for financial aid because financial aid is reserved for seniors. He said that he is very grateful for the opportunities that Vineland has offered him. Mr. Moscat said he was recommended by his former teacher, Melanie Anderson, to ask the Board if they would support him in raising funds for his attendance at the NYU summer program, which costs $11,000. He suggested possibly having a jeans day.

Luis Corchado
Mr. Corchado said he would like to give some “food for thought” and questioned where we are going as a society.

Old Business: None.
New Business:  None.

Board Member Remarks:  Mr. Sbrana said he looks forward to coming home.

Mr. Ulrich referenced Mr. Medio’s comments about programs that succeed.  He said that he attended the Cap n Dagger’s musical the *Addams Family*, which was fantastic.  Mr. Ulrich said the musicals, select choir, marching band are all successful programs and good things going on in our district.  He said Max Leuchter School is one of the best elementary schools in our district but unfortunately sometimes we have to make tough decisions.  Mr. Ulrich said as a Board member he is going to do what is right for the district.  He recapped the topics of the night.

Ms. Acosta thanked everyone for coming out.  She commended the Cap n Dagger and Vineland All Middle School Production on their musicals.  She believes in the arts and would love to see our programs expand and offer more opportunities.  Ms. Acosta congratulated Ferdinand Moscat for getting into the NYU Summer Program.  She said it would be great if we could support one of our students and have him represent us as a city.  Ms. Acosta thanked Mrs. Haley, Mr. Mustertel and the accounting team for all their hard work on the budget.  She congratulated all the students who spoke tonight.

Report/Remarks by Board President:  Mr. Bordley said the first step in school security is getting people to talk.  He urged everyone to report what you see or hear.

Adjournment:  A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.  All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,

/Helen G. Haley/
Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary