

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Monday, March 26, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. English

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Schneider, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Barber, Interim Board Secretary and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. Absent: Dr. Banks, Superintendent.

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:

Mr. English arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Public Comments: None.

Dr. Gruccio said tonight's presentation will be discussion of the 2012-2013 budget with the board as a whole.

Mrs. Darlene Barber, Interim Business Administrator, said this has been a very unusual and complicated budget year due to all the personnel changes. She complimented all administrative and school staff for putting together a plan that we all feel will work. Mrs. Barber said tonight some major changes in the budget will be discussed that were not discussed at the last meeting. She reviewed the time period for the budget development time. Mrs. Barber said on Wednesday March 28th the budget will be presented for submission to the voters. She said the voters will not be voting on the budget because it is below the 2% cap. Mrs. Barber said the board will adopt the budget and it will be presented back to the County Superintendent and to the City of Vineland for tax certification. Mrs. Barber said the budget will move forward as if it as went through the actual vote process. Mrs. Barber said the 2012-2013 proposed budget is \$196,540,112 with a local tax levy of \$21,731,439. She said the school tax rate will increase by \$0.002 because the ratables have dropped. Mrs. Barber explained the various sources the district receives its funding and projected revenue from. She said a major portion of our budget breakdown goes towards school based budgets.

Mrs. Barber said on the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) analysis there were people allocated in the wrong section so it looks like in the special education instructional staff category there was an increase. Also during the current year we put some additional in-class support people in place, which still remain in the budget based on enrollment needs. Mrs. Barber said the total losses of jobs in the district are 16.5 full time equivalents. She said this presentation will be brought before the board formally this Wednesday for approval and adoption. Mrs. Barber said the budget has to be presented to the County Superintendent of Schools on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

Mr. Medio asked when the personnel cuts will be discussed. Mr. Ulrich said because of bumping rights they will be discussed after the budget is complete. Mr. Medio said two years ago when employees knew they were being cut they had a chance to speak at the public hearing what has changed since then. Mr. Ulrich requested for all non-tenured personnel to be given a Rice Notice so they can speak at the public hearing. Mrs. Barber said the Rice Notices will be sent out tomorrow morning.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the proposed budget and current revenue projection amounts are estimates. Mrs. Barber said \$197,065,658 is the current year revenue and \$196,540,112 is next year's projected revenue.

Mr. Medio asked what new positions are being created in this budget. Mrs. Barber said this budget includes an additional transportation mechanic. She said if we add the additional mechanic we will be able to perform additional work in-house and save money. Mrs. Barber said based on the board's vote an additional high school principal was included in the budget.

Mr. Ulrich asked for an explanation on the special education instructional staff program changes per population. Mrs. Barber explained that in-class support people were added to this year's budget that was not originally included in the budget along with positions that were budgeted in the wrong area. Mr. Ulrich asked why security and maintenance are together. Mrs. Barber said because that is the way the state has set up the budgeting lines.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked why the excess surplus was reduced. Mrs. Barber said the audited excess surplus is from the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Medio asked at what point we will discuss some of the maintenance projects such as changing Cunningham School and Coney Avenue. Mr. Fanucci said that is not in this budget.

Mrs. Barber said she has had discussion with Dr. Gruccio and Dr. Schneider about what can be done to move forward in regards to the overcrowding in the elementary schools. She said we are looking for a short term fix in order to have continuity in the education of the students and be ready to move forward when the major projects are approved by the state.

Mr. Medio asked if there was no longer a need for the Almond Road expansion because the elementary rooms are no longer needed. Mrs. Barber said there is a need to move forward in order to provide more space for the school district. Mr. Medio said it was to his understanding that the Almond Road Preschool was going to be renovated adding an additional nine rooms because Max Leuchter was going to become an elementary school. He said it is no longer in the plan to make Max Leuchter an elementary school therefore; we do not need those rooms. Mr. Fanucci said the idea is to keep our options on the table and we are supposed to have a meeting with the state to discuss this. Mrs. Barber mentioned that the leasing of this facility and room renovations are in this budget. She said this is based on the projected increase in pre-school enrollment in the district. Dr. Gruccio said the state is in the process of sub-dividing the land and giving the district the Almond Road building. She said the money is in the budget for this because we are hoping to hear in the near future whether or not we will own the building and then we will be able to begin renovations. Mr. Medio said to address the overcrowding we could send fifth graders to the middle schools and the trailers at Veterans Memorial School could be put at the elementary schools for use. Mr. Ulrich said another option is turning Rossi Middle School into an elementary school. Dr. Gruccio said we are hoping in a year we will be on the list to have our additional middle school built, which will open up Rossi School. She said we were told the earliest that we would actually see a building is 2016. Dr. Gruccio said as far as the trailers it cost the district over a million dollars to have the plumbing done at their current location. She said that is why there was never discussion in the past to relocate them.

Mrs. Barber said she will see that all non-tenured personnel are sent Rice Notices tomorrow.

Mr. Fanucci thanked everyone for all their hard work on the budget.

Public Comments: None.

Board Member

Comments:

Mr. Medio asked why the board is meeting again on Wednesday. Mr. Ulrich said for the public hearing and actual vote on the budget.

Mr. Fanucci said he along with Mr. Mercado sat in on the interviews for the Human Resources position, which will be on the April agenda. He said if any board member has any questions about the candidate that was selected, to please give them a call. Mr. Ulrich asked if the candidate's resume will be distributed to the board. Mrs. Barber said absolutely.

Mr. Mercado thanked the staff for all their work on the budget. He said if anyone has any concerns to please contact Mr. Fanucci or any staff member at Plum Street. He also gave his condolences to the family of Justin Alvarez and Joyce Agostini.

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Barber
Interim Board Secretary

DB:df

