

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 7:01 p.m., in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Mercado, Ms. Morello, Dr. Mounier and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Ms. Rios, on vacation.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Beatty, Acting Board Secretary and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. Absent: Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary.

Mr. Medio 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:

Special

Presentations: Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Lisa Beatty, Assistant Business Administrator, to present the 2013-2014 School District Budget.

Ms. Beatty reviewed the 2013-2014 School District Budget. She said we are one of the few districts in the state that have had an increase in the student population. Ms. Beatty said our budget funding comes from the following sources: fund balance, local tax levy, local non-tax revenues, state/federal funds in the operating budget and local state/federal grants. She said the general operating budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 was \$166,819,026 and this year there was an increase of \$5,186,663. Ms. Beatty said this increase was due to more utilization of the fund balance for capital projects. She said we also received a slight increase in state aid of \$1,186,161. Ms. Beatty said the budget for the district side is an increase this year of \$1,499,260 from last year, which is due to employee benefits increasing by 13%. She said the school based budget also had an increase due to the benefits. The budget shortfall is largely due to the health insurance increase, newly negotiated salaries, and an increase in fixed costs. Ms. Beatty said to address the shortfall of approximately \$3,714,986, central administration will not replace various employees, which would save about \$491,989. She said the replacement of staff through attrition will save the district about \$75,707.00. Ms. Beatty said we have plans to eliminate six instructional coaches with a total of eight from our general budget because two coaches will be covered through grants.

Continued

Ms. Beatty said we will be eliminating one Child Study Team and reinstating the Success Program, which will reduce the tuition paid out. She said we will be utilizing some funds from IDEA to cover special services tuition costs. Ms. Beatty said to address the operating shortfall from the schools we will be reducing Schedule B and stipends, which will save \$98,400.00. There is a decrease in supplies of \$170,000.00 a reduction of five cafeteria aides of \$30,000.00 an elimination of teachers, which includes an in-school suspension, digital technology, English, history and math teacher that will save about \$350,000. 00. Ms. Beatty said the new budget proposal will include the creation of 24 additional elementary classrooms to help reduce overcrowding in the elementary schools. She said in order to help defray the costs for the new classrooms we are going to eliminate three and a half counselors and four in-school suspension teachers for about \$525,000.00 in savings and through the redistricting of moving the preschools and elementary schools should help decrease transportation costs by about \$200,000.00. Ms. Beatty said by eliminating high school courtesy busing we will save \$68,000.00 and purchasing one less bus is about \$90,000.00 along with transportation over-time of about \$50,000.00. She said the capital projects that will be included in the initial project are funded through the withdrawal from capital reserve. The capital project costs are \$450,000 for a weight room, \$225,000 for sidewalks, \$325,000 for a walkway at high school, \$450,000 in upgrades at the WB Mason building and \$450,000 in security upgrades. She said we also minimize our costs by sharing services with the police department, city hall and the library for the internet.

Mr. English asked why the funding for the capital projects is not put back into the classrooms. Ms. Beatty said when this money is set aside in capital reserve it is only to be used for projects in the long range facilities plan, which is a one-time cost.

Public Comments
on Agenda Items:

David Mazur, Vineland Resident

Mr. Mazur expressed his concern in regards to some of the jobs that will be cut in the budget. He believes that the district is top heavy and one administrator's salary is equal to seven or eight of the lower positions that will be eliminated.

Kim Piccari, Guidance Counselor

Ms. Piccari expressed her concern in regards to the elimination of a guidance counselor at each middle school.

Rose Marie Schroer, Parent

Ms. Schroer said her daughter is a classified student on medical home instruction. She said a mediation conference was held on Friday, March 22, 2013 with the special education supervisor, her daughter's child study team and the district's counsel. Ms. Schroer said the child study team along with district counsel stated at the mediation that they disagree with her daughter's treating physician in recommending and requesting home instruction for her. Ms. Schroer said if her daughter's continued home instruction is not approved and she is forced to attend school this will jeopardize her health and wellbeing. She said that she will hold the district liable if her daughter's health and wellbeing is compromised.

Mr. Medio asked Ms. Schroer to see Dr. Gruccio at the end of the meeting.

Ralph Giraud, Parent

Mr. Giraud expressed his concern in regards to the elimination of a guidance counselor at each middle school.

Kelly Stipes, Health & Social Service Coordinator at Rossi Middle School

Ms. Stipes expressed her concern in regards to the elimination of a guidance counselor at each middle school.

Scott Suhmann, Teacher

Mr. Suhmann expressed his concern in regards to the elimination of a guidance counselor at each middle school.

Recommendations:

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Beatty
Acting Board Secretary

LB:df

