

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 5:40 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. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier, Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Rios. Absent: None.

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. DeSanto said tonight item five on the agenda is a proposed resolution for executive session to discuss personnel and he is requesting for the board to defer item five. He explained that if you propose to discuss an individual's performance or the terms and conditions of their employment you must give that employee the opportunity to have the discussion in public. He said if the employee decides that they want their name discussed in public then that discussion moves to the public for everyone to hear and see. Mr. DeSanto said tonight is an unusual situation because the budget is being discussed. He said it is premature to have anyone think that tomorrow morning pink slips will be issued. Mr. DeSanto said the board needs to have a planning tool. His advice is to defer any decision about going into executive session and have the discussion in public recognizing that you should not be discussing specific individuals. Mr. DeSanto said the board needs to stick to the generic discussion of positions and expenditures. He said there will be opportunity in the second step of the process to deal with the specific employment issues you will be facing.

Public Comments: Louis Russo, Vice President of the Vineland Education Association (VEA) Mr. Russo said he along with Sal Emburgia, President of VEA, are here tonight on behalf of the VEA and for the maintenance of quality education in the Vineland Public Schools. He said they sincerely appreciate the board's efforts in the last week to reduce, to the greatest amount possible, the loss of any educational programs and cuts. Mr. Russo urged the board to budget up to the allowable cap. He said from what he understands Vineland is failing to budget up to the cap and failing to play by the new rules of the system.

Mr. Russo said we are putting off a bill that we do not want to pay and each year that we put it off it will get bigger and the cuts more severe. He feels a 2% increase is modest and will not significantly hurt our taxpayers. Mr. Russo urged the board to adjust to the new normal and work on a budget that supports our programs and students up to the allowable cap.

Mr. Ulrich said Mrs. Barber did supply data that included a 2% increase in the cap and no one on the board felt that they wanted to increase taxes. He said if anyone on the board has the idea to increase taxes by 2% we need to know that before we entertain a resolution on the vote of the budget.

Mrs. Barber, Interim Business Administrator, reviewed the 2012-2013 school district budget. She said at Monday's budget hearing work session she reviewed a calendar of events that have occurred from November through the end of March. Mrs. Barber said in summary you are looking at a proposed budget of \$196,540,112 and a local tax levy of \$21,731,439. She said one of the things that the board was considering between now and the beginning of the year was reducing the amount of fund balance used. Mrs. Barber said the current budget has a fund balance of \$8,859,881. She said in the budgeted fund balance there is audited prior year excess surplus of \$3,966,470, deferred state aid from fiscal year 2012 of \$2,862,617 and current year excess surplus of \$1,863,376. Mrs. Barber said excess current year surplus is due to changes in salaries, health benefits and other things such as lower fuel costs. She explained that our projected revenue comes from different state sources such as transportation, special education and security aid. Mrs. Barber said we receive our federal revenues from No Child Left Behind, IDEA and other miscellaneous sources. She said a major percentage of our aid comes from the state. She reviewed the changes to the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) analysis from the 2011-2012 to the 2012-2013 school year.

Mrs. Phillips said there are two guidance supervisors added to the analysis and she thought we were taking away the guidance supervisor. Dr. Gruccio said our recommendation is to cut three supervisory positions reinstating the music positions and making the assistant principals twelve month positions. Mrs. Phillips said we are not adding two guidance supervisors. Mr. Fanucci said that is a mistake.

Mr. Ulrich asked what happens after the approval of the proposed budget as far as if there is a shift in philosophy or a priority. Mrs. Barber said after the budget is adopted you will have retirements and changes in location of staffing.

Mrs. Barber said from an administrative point she is recommending that the April work session and regular meeting are held at the end of the month so we have the ability to prepare the staffing changes and discuss the possible reallocation of money.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if a position is budgeted in a certain category can it come out of that category and be moved to a different area. Mrs. Barber responded yes that can happen at any time.

Mr. Medio asked how many teachers are being eliminated in this budget. Mrs. Barber said around twenty five. Mr. Medio asked when board members can recommend changes to the budget. Mr. Ulrich said that can occur over any period of time. Mr. Medio said how about right now. Mrs. Barber said the board can make a motion and a second then discussion.

Mr. DeSanto said the process is that the superintendent is recommending her budget with a motion and a second then discussion. He said during the discussion if board members would like to make suggestions the superintendent can modify their recommendation to include the suggestion. If she disagrees then the board can vote “no” on her budget and ask her to reconsider and make a change at that point.

Recommendations:

Public

Comments: Maureen Riley, Barse Media Specialist  
Ms. Riley said she understands there is thought in regards to eliminating the library aide positions. She suggested for board members to visit the school library to see what the library aides do.

Mr. Ulrich said he knows that many board members have visited the media centers. He said that he has visited many of the school media centers but has not been to Barse School. Mr. Ulrich promised Ms. Riley that he will visit Barse School.

Board Member

Comments: Mr. English requested information on what other districts do in regards to the alternative program.

Mr. Mercado said he received a lot of positive feedback on the guest speaker at D'Ippolito School and he would like to see her return.

Dr. Guccio thanked Mrs. Barber and Dr. Schneider for stepping up to the plate and doing incredible work. She knows it is difficult to cut positions and she wanted to thank the principals, vice principals and supervisors for making some really tough decisions.

Mrs. Barber thanked Mr. Dan Smith and his staff for all their work on the budget.

Mr. Ulrich said he attended the Cap N Dagger production of *Beauty and the Beast*, which was absolutely great. He said that we cannot forget about that segment of our education and giving students an option besides athletics.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Barber  
Interim Board Secretary





