

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 7:03 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Ms. Morello, and Mr. Pagano. Absent: Mr. Jennings and Ms. Rios, whose son is ill.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. English 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:

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 Czaplinski vs. Vineland Board of Education Litigation. 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 hearing. Employee contracts with Central Office Administration. 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 Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentations:

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Steven Calakos, Middle School Play Director, to honor students and advisors who contributed to the success of the play *Annie Jr.*

Mr. Calakos said on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> our middle school actors from grades six through eight performed *Annie Jr.* He said that he could not have asked for a better cast and production team. Mr. Calakos thanked all the parents who volunteered hours of their time along with the administrators and Board for supporting the arts in Vineland.

Mr. English said he knows that Mr. Melamed, former play director, was looking down and smiling on the outstanding job that Mr. Calakos did with the play.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Wayne Weaver, Executive Director of Facilities, to present the progress on the new middle school plans.

Mr. Weaver introduced Mr. Richard Sherman, of the School Development Authority, to present an overview on the Middle School #2 project.

Mr. Sherman presented an overview on the Middle School #2 project, which has a contract completion date of May 2018.

Ms. Morello asked what the occupancy number is for the auditorium. Mr. Sherman said we normally size an assembly area to accommodate half of the student body. He said the assembly capacity should be around 325.

Mr. DeWinne asked if there is anything that can get in the way of this school from getting completed. Mr. Sherman said there are no issues with the state funding and we try to anticipate things that could get in the way. He said in the past we have had delays in construction that tend to be related to unforeseen site conditions and we have engaged a civil consultant to help prevent this from happening.

Mr. English asked what we are looking to do for this building to make it as efficient as possible. Mr. Sherman said the implementation of materials and system standards has changed with our program. He said we have a relatively efficient HVAC system that we use. Mr. Sherman said the district requested that we consider a geothermal system for this building. He said that we do have a lot of high efficiency performance requirements in regards to lighting systems.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked where the sidewalks and walkways will be located. Mr. Sherman said we have not delineated that level of detail. Mr. DiGiorgio asked what the unpaved fire access roadway is. Mr. Sherman said we have not finalized what the surface will be yet.

Mr. English asked if the site has been cleared yet. Mr. Sherman said it has been cleared once and is pretty overgrown at this point.

Ms. Morello asked if there has been any discussion in regards to installing a traffic light on Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Sherman said there have been some discussions. He said that would be between the Board of Education and county. Ms. Morello asked how close the entrances are to Butler Avenue. Mr. Sherman said he is not sure. Ms. Morello said we need to have discussions now with the county so they know what needs to happen there.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent, to provide a presentation on Alternative School Learning.

Mr. Frangipani discussed the Twilight Program, which is a four hour day for the Alternative Program that is currently housed at Cunningham School.

Ms. Morello asked about the transportation costs. Mr. Frangipani said around \$100,000, which is what we are currently spending now. Ms. Morello said at the Curriculum & Instruction meeting we discussed the ages of the students and what would happen to middle school students if there was a need. Mr. Frangipani said we are looking at having a program within each school for these students. Ms. Morello asked if it were possible for a student to attend all four years of high school in this program. Mr. Frangipani said it is possible but not what we want. Ms. Morello asked for an explanation of option two. Mr. Frey explained that option two provides us much flexibility in how we provide the credits to students.

Mr. English asked for a Power Point on this presentation to be given to each Board member. He thanked Ms. Morello for bringing this to his attention. Mr. English said you have three months to put a quality product out there. He is hoping this will provide the best education for the students who do struggle in the everyday high school atmosphere. Mr. English asked if a semester was two marking periods. Mr. Frangipani said two marking periods is a half year.

Ms. Morello said this would be an opportunity for a qualified individual who cannot work a 40 hour week but can do a program such as this.

**Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance** – Ms. Morello asked if the suspension, absent and tardy reports are brought up at some other point. Mr. English said they can be discussed now. Ms. Morello said it is a well laid out report but the numbers are disheartening. She said we need to see what we can do differently to address the 4% of the students who are troubled so they can take advantage of the quality education the district provides. Dr. Gruccio said it is being addressed in a variety of conversations.

Comments by

Board Solicitor:

Mr. DeSanto said it has been brought to his attention that over the last couple of months there has been a lot of discussion regarding our policy and regulation on the use of school facilities. He said there are concerns about the content and effectiveness of the policy and administrative regulations. Mr. DeSanto suggested for the full Board to be briefed on what our current policy and regulations provided because there needs to be some changes addressed. He said the Board passes policies and many times those policies are general in terms. The Superintendent is empowered to adopt regulations administratively to carry out the policies. Mr. DeSanto said Policy #7510 is the policy that the Board adopted many years ago on the use of school facilities. He said the policy provides that the use of school facilities will not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit making organization, political activity, private social functions and any purpose that is prohibited by law. Mr. DeSanto said there have been requests received from people who conduct clinics given by profit organizations. He said the Board should approve annually a schedule of fees for the use of school facilities. Mr. DeSanto said the fee schedule needs to be extracted from the regulations as a separate document. He said there are two components of a fee schedule one is the rental and the other is the reimbursement for cost of utilities and other services.

Ms. Morello asked if class one and class two designations should be in the policy. Mr. DeSanto said there is no need to have a class one and two. Ms. Morello asked if there is any change in a fee does that need to come before the Board. Mr. DeSanto said absolutely and it cannot be altered by anyone other than the Board.

Mr. DeSanto said the fee schedule, which has been in the regulation for years, provides that Vineland Recreation Commission sanctioned programs are exempt from the daily rental fees. He said these organizations are supposed to pay \$200 annually no matter how much they use the fields or auditoriums. Mr. DeSanto said the thinking over the years was this involves our students and provides recreation/athletics. He said if the gym is used by Vineland Basketball on a weekend they are required to pay the reimbursement for maintenance and other services we provide. Mr. DeSanto said the fee schedules should be uniform and common for everyone.

Mr. English said the regulation needs to be cleaned up to match the policy and the fees should not be there. Mr. DeSanto said the fees should be extracted in a separate document to be passed upon by the Board. He said the remainder of the policy and regulations are fairly ok. Mr. English said we need more consistency and cannot operate in the red. He said we have a Finance Committee meeting scheduled in April to establish the numbers. Mr. English feels when we rent our facilities out the Vineland students should get them first. He said through the Policy Committee we need to change the language and through facilities Mr. Weaver knows the cost of square footage and the gym. Ms. Morello feels the idea of going through the committees is excellent.

Mr. DeSanto said the time table is obvious. He said the Policy & Personnel Committee have to review the policy and the Finance Committee can review a fee schedule. Mr. DeSanto said after a policy gets adopted then the administrative regulations will fall into place. He said hopefully everything will be done during the next few months and completed for either July or September.

Mr. English said the reason we are in the red in some areas is because organizations that are on this list choose not to pay. He said it is costing the district money to have lights on and staff there.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

- 1.1 **Personnel Items** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if someone goes out on a leave of absence does it count as their time served as an employee. Dr. Rossi said if it is an unpaid leave it does not.

Ms. Morello wished Ms. Karol a long, happy, healthy retirement.

## 2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.

2.2 **First Reading of Policy #2431 Athletic Competition Eligibility Standards, Policy/Regulation #3218 Substance Abuse TSM, Policy/Regulation #4218 Substance Abuse SSM, Policy/Regulation #5200, Policy #5460 High School Graduation, Policy #5465 Early Graduation, Policy/Regulation #8630 Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility - Emergency School Bus Procedures, Policy #5850 Social Events and Class Trips, Policy #7250 Naming of Facilities, Bylaw 0155 Board Committees, Policy/Regulation #5512 HIB, Policy #2361** – Mr. English said Policy 2431 should state that we have a 2.0 GPA requirement. Dr. Gruccio said it is in the regulations. Mr. DeSanto suggested putting a cross reference comment at the bottom of the policy. Mr. English asked if each Board member read the red writing in Policy 5850, 7250 and Bylaw 0155 before they are voted on. He thanked the Policy Committee for updating Bylaw 0155.

Mr. DeSanto said on Policy/Regulation 5512 the HIB statute that commissions regulations did not provide that anyone other than a pupil could appeal a HIB determination. He said it is possible that a staff member could be charged with HIB. Mr. DeSanto said this Policy/Regulation change provides that if a staff member is charged he or she has the right of appeal to the Board.

Mr. English asked how everyone knows when a mandated change occurs. Mr. Frangipani said when it is approved we alert everyone that the policy is there.

Mr. Pagano said the Emergency Action Plan for sudden cardiac arrest is if someone comes across an individual who passes out or is not breathing the first step is to call the office. He said the office then calls the Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) to assess the situation then 911. He expressed his concern that the first step should be to call 911 and feels this needs to be rewritten. Mr. English said that is why we read through these policies.

2.3 **Bus Evacuation Drills** – No discussion.

### 3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- 3.1 **New Middle School Schematic Design Submission** – Mr. DiGiorgio said it is exciting when you hear about a new school being built and asked if any consideration has been given to the financial impact of operating a new school. Dr. Gruccio explained that we will probably be saving money based on the geothermal system. Mr. Weaver said we look at the energy costs and the conversion of Rossi School. He is not sure how the staffing will flow, which is what Dr. Gruccio will be working on. Mr. Weaver mentioned that some custodial staff will be added for the cleaning piece.
- 3.2 **Long Range Facilities Plan Update** - Ms. Morello asked if there is a point in time when the Board of the whole will sit down with administration and discuss what our plan is for all of these buildings. Mr. Weaver said the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) is completely fluid and we built on that plan. He said we are taking a look at facilities and doing a full inventory on each building. Mr. Weaver said it is a requirement by the commission to have the resolution approved but does not lock you in forever and changes can be made. He said in order to move forward we need an approved LRFP. Ms. Morello said we need to decide what the curricular piece is and how it fits with the buildings.

### 4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers** – No discussion.
- 4.2 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.3 **NJ School Boards Insurance Group 2015 Safety Grant** – Ms. Morello asked if this grant was for Almond Road. Mrs. Haley said no last year's grant was. Ms. Morello asked if this grant money will go towards surveillance cameras on buildings we own. Mrs. Haley responded yes.
- 4.4 **Winslow School Walmart Garden Grant Funding, Barse School General Mills Foundation Grant Funding** – No discussion.
- 4.5 **Gloucester County Special Services School District Cooperative Transportation Contract** – No discussion.
- 4.6 **Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal** – No discussion.

7a. **REGULAR AGENDA:**

Report by the Secretary of the Board of Education – No discussion.

7b. Items Proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member- None.

8. Review of Bills incurred during February 2015 – Mr. DiGiorgio requested for Mrs. Haley to send him an email on what EBS Healthcare Staffing Services is and payments to Interline Brands. Mrs. Haley said EBS is used for speech services because we do not have enough speech teachers. Mrs. Morello said she knows that Interline is for janitorial supplies.

Mr. English asked if the payment of \$165.12 is because something was needed and we could not find it locally. Mrs. Haley said she believes that is what they are doing.

Public Comments: Harry Meyers  
Mr. Meyers urged the Board to reconsider cutting positions that are vital to student learning such as computer teachers.

Lee Burke  
Mr. Burke said he is very pleased with the Twilight Program concept. He said in regards to social media comments he thinks the message is that the Board has to be aware if you are discussing any district business on any device that is public. Mr. Burke said transparency has to start with the Board. He suggested at all meetings for all members of the public and the Board to turn their cell phones off. Mr. Burke feels it is important that the various policies are getting the attention of this Board.

Committee Reports: Ms. Morello said she will email the Policy & Personnel report to the Board.

Mr. DeWinne said the Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. English said we have a Transportation Committee with Mr. Pagano as the chair along with Ms. Codispoti and Ms. Rios.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. English asked if data could be given on Public School versus Charter School. Ms. Morello said the difference is public schools takes and embraces all students and the Charter Schools do not have to open their doors and embrace any student. Mr. English said he would like to know if the Charter Schools are teaching the same way, using the same curriculum and abide by the same rules. Mr. Frey said the state provides some data on Charter Schools.

Ms. Acosta congratulated Winslow School on the Faces for Autism Bubbles Event. She discussed ideas for the Parent Academy. Mr. English said the Board retreat will be the perfect time to discuss the ideas.

Ms. Morello wished everyone a wonderful Passover and Easter.

Ms. Codispoti wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover. She thanked Mr. English for allowing her to sit in on the Policy Committee meeting.

Dr. Gruccio said we are very excited about our new school and we have had many meetings concerning it. She said it has been wonderful working with the people at the School Development Authority (SDA). Dr. Gruccio wished everyone a happy Passover and Easter. She also hopes everyone has a safe healthy happy spring break with their loved ones.

Mr. English said when Dr. Gruccio's contract was being discussed in December, what he heard from most people was to let Dr. Gruccio do her job. He said that is something he is committed to because he believes if you do not give a person the proper tools it is very hard to perform at anything. Mr. English said the budget is not an easy process and we are going to do what is fair for all. He encouraged everyone to respect the chain of command. Mr. English said last night Mr. Ottinger was honored and it was outstanding. He wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley  
Board Secretary

HGH:df