

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7:06 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. DeWinne.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, 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: Students from D'Ippolito 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 matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public Provision relied upon HIB Appeal of Veterans Memorial School student. 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 settlement of administrative appeal by two teachers. 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

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Vicky Yeager to recognize the students in the Academic Team and share their accomplishments.

Ms. Yeager said the Academic Team's season has finished and she is happy to say that they received trophies in six of the seven competitions. She introduced and acknowledged each of the team members.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mrs. Hope Johnson, Principal of Landis Middle School, to recognize Sally Goode, Landis Middle School Media Specialist, on the award she received.

Mrs. Johnson said Sally Goode, Media Specialist at Landis Middle School, received the 2015 American Library Association (ALA) Library of the Future Award. She along with Mr. Reissek, Assistant Principal of Landis Middle School, spoke about Ms. Goode's accomplishments.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mrs. Lauren DeBello, Supervisor of Instruction, to honor the 2015 Math 24 Tournament winners.

Mrs. DeBello said the Math 24 Tournament was held on March 14th at Petway Elementary School. She said all of the students did a wonderful job and worked very hard. Mrs. DeBello thanked the coaches, volunteers, Mrs. Frederico, Dr. Guccio, Central Administration, Board Members and City Council Members. She introduced the winners and certificates were presented to each of them.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Elliot DeShields and Ms. Kimberly Rivera, VHS Senior Class Advisors, to present the April 2016 senior class trip.

Mr. DeShields and Ms. Rivera discussed the senior class trip to Walt Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida next year March 28 through March 31, 2016 during the spring break.

Ms. Morello asked if cancellation insurance is included. Mr. DeShields said yes. Ms. Morello asked if the insurance is a requirement. Mr. DeShields said yes it is mandatory.

Mr. English asked if there is an amount of students required to go on this trip. Ms. Lewis, last year's senior advisor, explained that there is not a minimum number of students required.

Mr. Pagano asked if the trip is open to all seniors and if there are any requirements to be able to attend the trip. Mr. DeShields said the students have to pass the discipline criteria. Mr. Pagano asked where the funding is coming from. Mr. DeShields said the trip is paid for by parents and student fundraising. Mr. Pagano asked if there are fundraisers for those who cannot afford the trip. Mr. DeShields said absolutely.

Ms. Morello asked if the school nurse is a district expense. Dr. Gruccio said we are in the process of putting the final criteria together for class trips. She said we suggested for the nurse to be one of the advisors for the trip because for every 20 students an advisor is paid for. Ms. Lewis said the nurse is covered as a chaperone but also needs to be paid for being there. Dr. Rossi said we have been working on a formula for payment for field trips. Ms. Morello expressed her concern on having district money expended for a senior class trip. She asked where it puts the district legally if we send a nurse on an extra-curricular trip.

Mr. DeSanto said our research with NJ School Boards Association has determined that if there are medically needed students we are required to provide the nurse. He said we do not know who is going on the trip so that determination cannot be made yet.

Mr. English asked for the total cost of the nurse. Dr. Rossi said if it is a weekday it would be a salary day plus four hours on a weekend it would be twelve hours.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the trip is Monday through Friday or is there a weekend involved. Mr. DeShields said Monday through Thursday.

Mr. DeSanto said he reviewed the contract and it is ready to go with our changes. He said it is up to the Board as to when you want to approve it. Mr. English said the issue is the nurse. Mr. DeSanto said if the Board would like more information on the nurse it is your decision.

Ms. Lewis asked if the trip could be approved not including the nurse at this time.

Mr. Pagano asked if we are looking at \$400 for the nurse for the week. Mr. English responded yes.

Mr. English said we need to factor in for future trip requests some type of fundraising that includes the \$400. He asked what our current policy states.

Mr. DeSanto said the current policy eliminated what was an erroneous requirement that a class trip cannot be taken that would reduce the days that a student is in school.

Mr. English asked Dr. Gruccio to read the resolution for the class trip.

Dr. Gruccio said the approval of the senior class trip for the 2016 school year with a cost to the Board not to exceed \$400 for a nurse if necessary.

Ms. Rios said we should not put an amount in if we have to pay for the nurse anyway.

Mr. DeSanto said if you are mandated by code to provide the nurse the district must pay the expense. He said the expense cannot be paid for out of the school fund or from fundraising.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the group is together or separate at the parks. Ms. Rivera said we have two check in points with a chaperone.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the minutes were approved from January 28, 2015 and February 4, 2015. All members voted “yes.”

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of February 2015, which are in agreement were approved as submitted and on file in the Minute Book, and the Board approved its monthly certification of budgetary major account fund status and the Board Secretary’s monthly certification as on file with the Secretary. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. DeSanto said as a follow up to the April 1st work session regarding the use of facilities he has prepared draft documents, which were distributed to the Board tonight. He said one of the documents is a redlined version of our facilities use policy and some of the changes are what he understood was the pleasure of the Board. Mr. DeSanto said this will be reviewed by the Personnel & Policy Committee for consideration and then a recommendation to the Board. He said he has taken out of the regulations the fee schedule and included the numbers recommended by Mr. Weaver. Mr. DeSanto said this would be the fee schedule as a separate document and would go to the Policy and Finance Committees. He said he felt the rental application was not adequate so he prepared, for Mrs. Haley's review, a new application form and lease agreement so the terms/conditions of the use of the facility are understood by the applicant. Mr. DeSanto said the Board policy and fee schedule have to go through committees and then to the Board.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

None.

The Board recessed to executive session at 8:19 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. DiGiorgio did not feel well and departed the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members: None.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Morello, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,072,903.93).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval) Approval of a staff member’s retirement.

Motion: A motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to approve an employee’s retirement. All Members voted “yes.”

Public: Karolina Mills, Teacher at Petway School
Ms. Mills spoke in support of the computer teachers.

Carol Pennington, Teacher at Mennies School
Ms. Pennington spoke in support of the computer teachers.

Board Member
Remarks:

Mr. Jennings said he needed to change his vote under resignations/separations position #06124-10-02 employee #578 he “abstained.” He suggested shortening the curriculum for computers in some of the grades. Mr. Jennings feels that keyboarding should definitely be taught to the students because everyone needs to know how to type. He said that he read the Rossi School Newsletter and it was very interesting. Mr. Jennings said Rossi School is doing a lot of good things.

Mr. Pagano thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Ms. Morello encouraged everyone, who has any concerns about the budget, to come to the Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial School. She said only things discussed at the meeting are able to be changed because the preliminary budget has been sent to the county. Ms. Morello said the children in our district are doing amazing things from sports to academics. She thanked everyone who spoke tonight. Ms. Morello cautioned everyone to be careful and safe while driving.

Mr. DeSanto reminded the Board that the comments Ms. Morello made were accurate concerning matters brought up at the public hearing.

Mr. DeSanto said the changes are not only matters brought up by the public but matters brought up by the Board. He said if Board members have certain questions or concerns they are to be brought up that night.

Mr. English said he would hope that Board members have reviewed the budget and have asked questions.

Ms. Codispoti thanked everyone for coming out and said we listen to all of your comments. She said that she has to “abstain” on 1.1 termination employee #578. She congratulated everyone who received an award tonight.

Ms. Acosta said she also needs to “abstain” on position #06124-10-02. She thanked everyone who attended tonight’s meeting. She is very excited for next years senior class trip and thinks it is going to be a wonderful opportunity for our students. Ms. Acosta thanked everyone who spoke tonight. She would like to see as many people as possible attend the Public Hearing on April 27th because it is important to know everyone’s thoughts.

Ms. Rios thanked the D’Ippolito students for the flag salute. She congratulated all the students who received awards tonight. Ms. Rios said she is thankful that we have excellent educators and parents. She said last year she was one of the Board members who fought hard to keep the computer teachers and strongly believes that they should be kept at the elementary level. Ms. Rios said she could not attend Mr. Ottinger’s dedication at the high school due to her son being ill. She said it is a well-deserved award and she is sorry that she could not attend. She thanked everyone who came out tonight.

Dr. Gruccio said she thought this evening was very uplifting and what we saw at the beginning of the meeting was a tribute to our staff, students and parents. She said there are so many positive things that go on in the district and sometimes they go unnoticed.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English said every year, during budget time, there is always one main topic and this year it is computer teachers. He is glad that Ms. Mills and Ms. Pennington spoke. Mr. English said it is a tough decision because not every child is fortunate enough to have a computer at home.

Mr. English said he puts faith in the building principals that they know during cut time what they have to put out there. He said the Board is passionate in what they believe and in the central administrative staff. Mr. English said whatever happens he has the confidence in our teaching and administrative staff that we will continue to operate as we do. He said the Florida trip presentation was great and he believes that proper planning prevents poor performance. Mr. English said he thinks he heard this evening that a teacher wanted to come forward with this trip but was told not to and he does not understand why. He said we have policies in place that we want to follow accurately. Mr. English said next year will be tough and we will have to get creative finance wise.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:df

