

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 25, 2012 at 7:15 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Ulrich presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Fanucci, Mr. Medio, Mr. Mercado, Dr. Mounier and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mrs. Phillips.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Schneider, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Barber, Interim Board Secretary, Ms. Diaz, Interim Personnel Director, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: Mrs. Polof, Special Education Director.

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:

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Major Robert V. Simpson to recognize some of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program students.

Major Simpson said he is here tonight to recognize some of the cadets and the JROTC Program. He introduced Cadet Major Michael Salanitro to present a brief synopsis of the program.

Cadet Major Salanitro presented an overview of the JROTC Program goals, classroom set up, trips past and present, community service projects and fund raising. He introduced Cadet Technical Sergeant Figueroa to present the remainder of the presentation. Cadet Technical Sergeant Figueroa discussed curriculum and tips.

Mr. Mercado presented certificates of recognition to the JROTC members.

Dr. Gruccio thanked Major Simpson and the cadets for taking the time to attend the meeting this evening. She said this is a wonderful program that has helped many young men and women in our schools.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from March 5, 2012, March 7, 2012, March 14, 2012, March 26, 2012 and March 28, 2012. All Members voted "yes."

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month January of 2012, 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."

Solicitor's Report:

None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident

Mr. Burke expressed his concern on agenda item #14 legal fees payment and feels all lawsuits filed should be made available to the public.

Mr. Ulrich said this was not a lawsuit filed by an employee this is payment of legal fees for a charge in Municipal Court that was dismissed.

Mr. DeSanto said he has reviewed the bill to determine if it is reasonable to reimburse the employee if found not guilty.

Mrs. Barber said many of these legal fees are covered by the district's insurance and do not impact the budget. She said the district is obligated to annually declare if there are any pending obligations and legal funds must be set aside each year for them.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

1. The Board approve the extended paid sick leave, minus the cost of a substitute, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 18A:30-6 for an employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the extended paid sick leave, minus the cost of a substitute, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 18A;30-6 for an employee whose name is on file with the Secretary of the Board. All Members voted “yes.”

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Fanucci, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$6,375,564.15).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval) None.

Public: Lee Burke, Vineland Resident
Mr. Burke said that he attended the Petway auction and commended the people involved. He said that he was pleased to hear that the Ethics Commission clarified that the board’s role is not to participate in the interview process. Mr. Burke said the issue is to remember the role of the board and not interfere with the day to day operations. He is concerned that some people have not received this message. Mr. Burke said that he hopes with the experience of Mr. Rossi, the new personnel director, we will stay clear of the exposure to legal matters.

Board Member
Remarks: Dr. Mounier applauded the JROTC cadets and thinks it is a very worthy undertaking. He congratulated the new employees and wished them the best of luck. Dr. Mounier said he is not aware that we are plagued in this district with lawsuits by employees. He said as to ethics we all have our conscience to answer to as well as the law and we need to be mindful that laws draw circles around people.

Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated the new employees and wished them the best of luck in their new positions. He echoed Dr. Mounier’s sentiments on the JROTC Program.

Mr. Fanucci said the JROTC Program is wonderful and he hopes it continues. He wished the new hires good luck and is sure they will bring the district to greater heights. Mr. Fanucci requested for more coverage to be given to the crew team.

Mr. English thanked the Barse students for the flag salute. He congratulated Major Simpson and his cadets for all their success, hard work and pride that they bring to the high school and community. Mr. English wished the best of luck to the new hires. He wished Winslow School the best of luck on their Bubble Day event. Mr. English said the new crew boats are making a difference because a boat his daughter was in came in first place and set the personal best time.

Mr. Mercado congratulated the new hires along with Major Simpson and his cadets. He thanked the staff members who continually apply for grants throughout the year.

Ms. Rios thanked Winslow Elementary School for the 3rd Annual Bubble Day t-shirt. She also thanked the Barse Elementary School students for presenting the flag salute. Ms. Rios said the JROTC Program is wonderful and she congratulated Major Simpson and the cadets for all their hard work. She also thanked the cadets for volunteering their time and taking the initiative to recruit at the middle schools.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Ulrich agrees with all the comments made in regards to the JROTC Program. He wanted to recognize Mr. Benish who played an integral part in bringing the JROTC Program to Vineland Public Schools. Mr. Ulrich wished Mr. Olsen the best of luck at Vineland High School and congratulated Mr. Rossi the new personnel director. He said the Bubble Day event that is being held tomorrow at Winslow Elementary School is a real nice event that he is going to try to attend. Mr. Ulrich said his job has a lot of community outreach programs taking place. On May 8th Larry's II Restaurant will be hosting a program called "Coffee with Cops." He said complimentary coffee will be served to anyone who would like to attend to discuss their concerns.

Dr. Guccio said it always makes you feel proud when you see the wonderful programs we have in our district. She said it is nice when we can recognize students as we did this evening. Dr. Guccio said that she believes there are other schools that will be having the Bubbles for Autism Program. She thanked all the principals and teachers who are putting this wonderful program together to help our students. Dr. Guccio wished Rosa Mendez the very best on her retirement. She also wished Mr. Olsen and Mr. Rossi the very best and looks forward to working with them. Dr. Guccio thanked everyone who attends the board meetings each month.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Barber
Interim Board Secretary

DB:df

