

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 7:05 p.m., in the Landis Middle School Auditorium, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Ms. Morello and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Jennings and Mr. Ulrich.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Schectman, Board Secretary and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. Absent: None.

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: Mr. Schectman said before you this evening is a copy of the budget that was submitted to the NJ Department of Education. He said these are the same numbers that were shown to the Board previously with no changes to the bottom line numbers. Mr. Schectman said we reflect anticipated revenues of \$196,144,066 and related expenditures of the same amount. He said the budget is in balance and there are no proposed tax increases.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, to open the public hearing. All Members voted “yes.”

Public Comments: Michelle Ogren, VHS Nurse  
Ms. Ogren expressed her concern in regards to not having a nursing supervisor and the impact that has on the district. She also expressed her concern in regards to Bayada nurses working in the schools and the itinerant nurses being cut.

Karen Hunt, VHS Nurse  
Ms. Hunt expressed her concern in regards to not having a nursing supervisor and the jeopardy that is putting the school health program in.

Sally Cottrell, Barse School Nurse  
Ms. Cottrell spoke in support of the itinerant school nurses and urged the Board not to eliminate them.

Wendi Carlon-Wolfe, Millville School Nurse

Ms. Wolfe spoke in support of the nursing supervisor/itinerant nurses and urged the Board to reinstate the positions.

Janice Bokma, Landis School Nurse

Ms. Bokma urged the Board to reconsider their decision to cut three itinerant nurses and replace them with random employees.

Carmina Lopreski, Itinerant Nurse

Ms. Lopreski spoke in support of having a skilled experienced nursing staff in the schools and feels privatizing is not the answer.

Barbara Thibodeau, Itinerant Nurse

Ms. Thibodeau thanked her fellow nurses for speaking so eloquently and heartfelt. She presented two flowcharts in regards to a nursing coverage plan that was given out by the principals last week and spoke in support of itinerant nurses.

Sheryl Mulcahy, Almond Road Preschool Nurse

Ms. Mulcahy spoke in support of the itinerant nurses and urged the Board not to eliminate them.

Cindy Paterno, Retired Teacher

Ms. Paterno spoke in support of school nurses. She expressed her concern in regards to saving personnel that affect the academic, emotional and psychological lives of students. Ms. Paterno also expressed her concern in regards to the loss of our computer teachers and feels academics has to be at the forefront. She said maybe we need to look at funding cuts in organized sports. Ms. Paterno spoke in support of vocational education skills and apprentice programs. She said we need to take a hard look at what is happening behind closed doors.

Ron Walker, Vineland Resident

Mr. Walker spoke in support of school nurses and reinstating the nursing supervisor.

Lee Burke, Vineland Resident

Mr. Burke said in today's newspaper there was an article about the Governor closing an eight hundred million dollar gap and is looking at the education budget. He said the new Acting Commissioner is going to delay payments the next fiscal year, which may create a problem with payroll in July.

Mr. Burke said the Acting Commissioner is considering eliminating several programs such as School Choice and Charter Schools. He said this Board has a chance to create a legacy by seeing that the Strategic Plan is fully developed, future budgets are aligned and individual schools know exactly what they have to spend. Mr. Burke said you need to treat the whole child and that includes their health, welfare and mental issues. He said that he supports school nurses and technology but does not support the purchase of new buses.

Patricia Ocasio, Vineland Resident

Ms. Ocasio spoke in support of computer teachers in the elementary and middle school levels. She urged the Board to reconsider reinstating the computer teachers.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, to close the public hearing. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. Medio said he is sure Board Members heard the message from the public loud and clear on several issues and they will look at addressing them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert G. Schectman  
Board Secretary



