

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, May 6, 2015 at 7:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Ms. Acosta.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Interim 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, The Grapevine, 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 contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is terms of Interlocal Agreement with the City of Vineland. 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.

Motion: Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. Mr. DiGiorgio, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentations: Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Sue Cicchini and Mr. Joseph Morello, Veterans Memorial School teachers, to honor the winners of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

Mr. Morello thanked Dr. Gruccio and the Board for honoring their students. He said this year the VFW came to them and asked them if they would participate in an essay contest. Mr. Morello said the Patriot's Pen Essay contest is a nationwide contest for grades 6, 7, and 8. He said this year's topic is "Why I Appreciate American Veterans". Mr. Morello said three of our 8th graders were awarded top prizes one of which won the local, state and national level. He introduced each of the winners.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Ross Stanger, Supervisor of Instruction, to honor students who participated in the Geography Bee and Middle School Essay Contest.

Mr. Stanger said he is here this evening to recognize students for a job well done. He said for the Tolerance and Understanding essay contest the children wrote about ways they will stand up for others to combat bullying, injustice and intolerance. Mr. Stanger introduced the essay contest winners. He also introduced the Winslow Elementary School Geography Bee Winner.

Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Kelly Amato, Rossi School Teacher, to recognize those who participated at Rossi School in raising funds to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Resource Foundation.

Ms. Amato invited her Principal, Tammy Monahan to speak. Ms. Monahan thanked Dr. Guccio, Mr. English and the entire Board of Education for recognizing Rossi School this evening on their efforts to support the Juvenile Diabetes Association. She thanked everyone who contributed and assisted with this event. Ms. Monahan thanked Rossi School teacher, Ms. Kelly Amato, who has taken on the planning of this event each year. Ms. Amato thanked the Board and Dr. Guccio for honoring Rossi School. She said this has been the fourth year that Rossi School has raised money to help find a cure for diabetes. Ms. Rossi said currently we have raised \$11,866.75. She said that she has had diabetes for 24 years and throughout those years her care has become easier and more manageable because of diabetic research.

Dr. Guccio introduced Chaplain Gary Holden to recognize the work and dedication of the Vineland Police Chaplains.

Chaplain Holden said we have seventeen police chaplains in the City of Vineland. He thanked the police department and chief for all the tremendous things they have done to think outside the box and be willing to do something like this. Chaplain Holden said this is not about religion but about being there for people. He said we are available to counselors, teachers and principals in our schools. Chaplain Holden introduced each of the chaplains.

Mr. Pagano thanked the Chaplains for all the work they do in the community and schools. He commended Chief Codispoli for seeing what a great asset this program would be to the community and implementing it.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mrs. Lisa Arena, Principal and Vice President of VASA, to honor the VASA Administrator of the Year.

Mrs. Arena said this evening it gives her great honor to announce that Mr. Daniel Greco, Principal of Durand School, has been selected as Administrator of the Year.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance – Mr. Frangipani said on page 3 of the Rossi report the third student down the initials should be JJ and not XM. He said the correction will be made.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – Mr. DiGiorgio congratulated his aunt on her retirement

1.2 **Approval of the following appointments – a. Board Secretary, b. Custodian of School District Records, c. Custodian of School Monies, d. Scott Musterel to fill positions in Mrs. Haley’s absence, e. Conscientious Employee Protection Act Contact Person, f. Section 504 Employee Compliance Officer, g. Appointing Authority/Civil Service Hearing Officer, h. Section 504 Student Compliance Officer, i. Working Papers Issuing Officer, j. Title IX Coordinator, k. Affirmative Action Officers, l. Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, m. Right to Know Officer, n. Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, o. Indoor Air Quality Designee, p. PEOSHA Officer, q. Asbestos Management Officer, r. Chemical Hygiene Officer, s. Contracting Agents, t. Anti-Bullying Coordinator** – No discussion

1.3 **Certificated Staff as Home Instruction Tutors for 2015-2016 school year** – No discussion.

1.4 **Hourly Rates for Substitute Personnel for 2015-2016** – No discussion.

1.5 **Reasonable Assurance of continued employment for 2015-2016** – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.

2.2 **Re-Adoption of ByLaws & Policies** – No discussion.

2.3 **Authorization to enter into partnerships with colleges and universities for placement of students for student teaching, practicum, field internships and observations for the 2015-2016 school year** – Mr. DeWinne asked, if someone who is not on the list, wants to enter into an agreement with the district what do they need to do. Dr. Gruccio said through Mr. Frey's office there is a contract that we need signed and then the students are placed. Mr. DeWinne asked if the students have to pass any test by our district. Dr. Gruccio responded no. Mr. DeWinne asked if it works differently for the online schools. Dr. Gruccio responded no.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we follow up with these colleges to make sure they are accredited. Dr. Gruccio responded yes.

Mr. DeSanto requested for the phrase "but not limited to" be eliminated from the recommendation.

Ms. Morello asked how many student teachers come in from these institutions during the year. Dr. Gruccio said she can get that information.

Mr. DeWinne asked if these student teachers have to go through the same finger printing background check process as our substitutes. Dr. Gruccio responded yes.

2.4 **First Reading of Policy 7510 Use of School Facilities** – Mr. Jennings asked if this is the same or have there been changes. Mr. DeSanto said the policy was revised and submitted to the Policy & Personnel Committee and was approved as revised.

Ms. Morello asked when the fee schedule goes to the Finance Committee will there be consideration for shared services with the city where we do not incur any costs. Mr. DeSanto said the policy is applicable to non-profits who want to use our facility. He said we are in a position that if we want to partner with the city on a project it could be done by the Board.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

3.1 **Summer Programs Preschool through Grade 12** – No discussion.

- 3.2 **Submission of Projects to NJ Department of Education as “Other” projects for schematic and final approval with no state funding requested – No discussion.**

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers – No discussion.**
- 4.2 **Placement of Special Education Students – No discussion.**
- 4.3 **Resolution Appointing Helen G. Haley as the district’s Qualified Purchasing Agent and establishing the bid threshold – Mr. DiGiorgio if we are bidding as much as possible. Mrs. Haley said we are currently working on the renewal bids for time and materials for next year. She said we have a vendor link on our website that we are putting our bids on. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are attempting to get other quotes and bids. Mrs. Haley said yes we are trying to be more competitive and to get better prices.**
- 4.4 **Resolution Appointing Legal Depositories for Investment of School District Funds – No discussion.**
- 4.5 **Resolution appointing Official Newspapers – Dr. Gruccio said we will also be adding the Spanish newspaper *Visto Bueno*.**
- 4.6 **Resolution Authorizing the Contract Agent to enter into Tuition Agreements for homeless students – No discussion.**
- 4.7 **Appointment of Bargaining Units – No discussion.**
- 4.8 **Appointment of Bank Depositories for Business Checking, a. Payroll Agency; Food Service, Budgetary, Athletic Department Petty Cash, Athletic Funds; Payroll (net); unemployment Trust Fund – No discussion.**
- 4.9 **Travel Stipends for Executive Director of Personnel and Director of Special Education for 2015-2016 – Mr. DiGiorgio asked for an explanation on this. Mrs. Haley said it is reimbursement outside of their contract for attending a seminar or class that is job related and paid through a purchase order with travel approved by the Board. Dr. Rossi said during his time here he has never utilized it.**

- 4.10 **Resolution to allow private schools to provide free nutritional breakfast and/or lunch for students with disabilities** – Ms. Morello asked if we are the flow through agency for this. Dr. Gruccio said yes we are mandated to provide this. Ms. Morello asked if this is monitored in any way. Ms. Godlewski, Special Education Director, said it is not monitored because the money does not come through the district.
- 4.11 **Tentative Tuition Charges for the 2015-2016 school year** – No discussion.
- 4.12 **Resolution Appointing Ford Scott & Associates LLC as Auditor** – Ms. Morello asked if we have kept to the \$79,000 or gone over. Mrs. Haley said the \$79,000 represents the audit fee which is the third year of the contract renewal and it has not changed. Ms. Morello asked if we are going to do RFP's for other professional services. Mrs. Haley responded yes this year it will be for Solicitor.
- 4.13 **Cape May County Special Services School District Contract** – No discussion.
- 4.14 **Membership Renewal of Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) for 2015-2016** – No discussion.
- 4.15 **Cumberland County Improvement Authority Contract for Recycling Collection** – Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we have done this in the past. Mrs. Haley said this is a new contract we previously used Waste Management. Mr. Weaver said prior to this we went with Waste Management for our trash with our recycling. After taking a look at the contract the savings were in the size of the containers. Mr. Weaver said the dumping fees were higher than we anticipated. So we are going back to using single stream recycling. Ms. Morello asked if we recycle in the buildings. Mr. Weaver responded yes.
- 4.16 **Alternative High School Program Contract** –Mr. DiGiorgio commented that the differential is huge. He hopes they do a great job and we get a great benefit from it. Ms. Morello asked if the cost is for the parts that the district puts in such as physical education and art. Dr. Gruccio said we have a physical education and art teacher that we will be utilizing in that building. Mr. Frangipani spoke about the cost difference between the two vendors. Mr. DiGiorgio asked Mr. Frangipani if he has had experience with Camelot. Mr. Frangipani said he has seen their work but never worked with them directly. Ms. Rios said she visited Camelot spoke to a lot of students and saw how they performed. She said many of the students have had a lot of disadvantages and are probably more difficult to deal with compared to the students we have at Cunningham currently. She said to hear them speak about all the improvements they have made was very impressive.

- 4.17 **Project Graduation Trip Vendor** – Mr. DeWinne asked what happens if the weather is bad. Dr. Gruccio said there is a rain date.
- 4.18 **Modification to the Funding for NJ Youth Corps Program** – No discussion.
- 4.19 **School Nutrition Program Vended Meals Contract** – No discussion.
- 4.20 **Comcast Cable Communications Management Agreement** – Ms. Morello said she hopes their service is better in the district than it is in her home.
- 4.21 **Purchases in excess of bid threshold** – No discussion.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REGULAR AGENDA:

- a. **Report by the Secretary of the Board of Education** for March 2015 – No discussion.
- b. **Monthly Bills Incurred March 2015**– Ms. Morello said that she likes the new format.

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

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Ms. Rios said, discussed at the March Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was the cost of rentals, which will be referred to the Facilities and Finance committee for discussion. She said they discussed transportation issues, hourly rates for substitute drivers, Policy #5850 Trips, mandated policy changes of the naming of facilities/buildings process. She said State Senators and Assemblymen attended the April Policy & Personnel Committee meeting and transportation issues and matters were discussed and brought to their attention. Ms. Rios said that Mr. Callavini reviewed the transportation amendments for the mileage that is mandated by the state. Ms. Rios said Policy #7510 Use of School Facilities was also discussed along with the uniform policy.

Mr. English thanked Ms. Rios and the committee for reaching out to the assemblymen and senators because it is a huge step in the right direction.

Mr. Jennings said discussed at the April Facilities Committee meeting was the facility use fees. He said we are going to utilize the Vineland Recreation Commission to schedule events to eliminate double booking. Mr. Jennings said we proposed new score boards for Gittone Stadium and the basketball courts at Vineland High School.

Mrs. Haley clarified that the funding for the score boards will come from the accumulation of gate receipts over several years, which was generated by people attending the football games.

Mr. English said the score boards will also be set up to utilize advertising for the district.

Mr. Jennings said the committee received an update on the HVAC system with the lowest bidder being Falasca Plumbing. He said we also discussed replacing the fence at Brewster & Chestnut.

Mr. English said it does his heart good to see the low bidder being Falasca Plumbing who are based in Vineland.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Ms. Morello asked if we are submitting our policies and labor contracts to NJ School Boards Association for review in moving towards becoming a certified Board. Mr. English responded yes.

Ms. Morello extended her personal appreciation to all teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. DiGiorgio, seconded by Ms. Morello, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. All members voted "yes."

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:df

