

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 6:08 p.m. in the Reber Administration Building, Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Ms. Acosta and Mr. DiGiorgio.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. 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:

Public Comment

On Agenda Items:

Harry Meyers

Mr. Meyers thanked the Board for all their hard work and spoke in support of the computer teachers.

Ronald Walker

Mr. Walker thanked the Board for the countless hours they put in. He asked for an explanation as to who is responsible for the budget cuts.

Mr. DiGiorgio arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Mr. DeSanto said the Public Hearing on the budget is a forum in which questions were presented to the Board. He said public comments on agenda items are for comments only and not questions. However Mr. Walker's question was procedural and if the Board would like to waive the formality of no questions during the public comment portion of the Board meeting they may do so.

Mr. DeWinne said we all have a part in the budget, taxpayers, employees, administration and Board members. He said ultimately the decisions come to the Board. Mr. DeWinne said Dr. Gruccio met with the principals and took their advice. Mr. DeWinne said the principals came up with a plan and it was brought to the finance committee. He said the finance committee listened to Dr. Gruccio along with Mrs. Haley and we went with their decision.

Dr. Guccio said the budget is a process that involves everyone. She said meetings were held with the principals to get their input. Dr. Guccio said we have to do everything in our power to provide the very best for our students no matter what we have. She said we have to work within our means, which is what we tried to do with this budget.

Vicky Miller

Ms. Miller thanked the Board for being an outstanding Board. She spoke in support of the computer teachers.

Regina Merkel

Mrs. Merkel spoke in support of the computer teachers.

Lee Burke

Mr. Burke said we all know that we have a shortfall of 5 million dollars. He said it is important for the Board, administrators and teachers to understand that you can only put off so long what is inevitably going to happen. Mr. Burke expressed his concern in regards to the impasse in negotiations that was mentioned in the newspaper today.

Mr. English said at this time the comments should be about the agenda item only and Mr. Burke can speak about other items at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Burke continued speaking about the negotiations and said he does not understand how you can have an impasse.

Recommendations:

Public Comments: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:df

