

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, May 8, 2013 at 7:07 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Mercado, Ms. Morello, Dr. Mounier, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Guccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Ludy, Board Secretary, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. 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: Students from Mennies Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mrs. Arena, Principal, was in attendance.

Resolution: Ms. Ludy 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 pending litigation the matter is numerous legal matters being handled through NJ School Boards Insurance Group; if contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is VASA & UAW negotiations. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is a personnel matter involving an administration; Superintendent evaluation. **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 Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Melanie Briggs to present the cast of the Vineland High School Cap n' Dagger play "*The Wedding Singer*."

Ms. Briggs said this spring the Cap n' Dagger performed *The Wedding Singer* and the show was fabulous. She said the students performed at a competition and won first overall with Elias Rivera receiving Best Actor and Miranda Vidro Best Actress. At this time each student introduced themselves and performed two of the numbers that they performed in the competition.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mark Melamed and Pat Gale to present the middle school play cast and crew.

Mr. Melamed commended the high school for the wonderful job they did with the play. He also commended the middle school students for the excellent job they did in the play during his hospital stay and praised Pat Gale for all her help. Mr. Melamed thanked the board for naming the stage in his honor. At this time the cast members introduced themselves. Ms. Gale said it is a real privilege to work with all of these children and is the best thing that she has ever done in her life. She thanked the board for supporting the arts.

Dr. Guccio introduced Vicki Volpe to present the Wizardry 101 students.

Ms. Volpe said she is the advisor for Wizardry 101, which is a club that she organized based upon Harry Potter. She said the students will be presenting an excerpt of the play that they usually present for elementary students. Ms. Volpe introduced each of the students to perform.

Mr. Callavini said he is here to discuss the kindergarten through fifth grade redistricting plan for the 2013-2014 school year. He said the Vineland Board of Education has added 24 regular education classrooms to reduce class size for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Callavini said for the next school year 12 classrooms will be added to Sabater Elementary School and Leuchter Preschool will open as an elementary and will provide the remaining 12 classrooms. Mr. Callavini said the Mennies Elementary School Bilingual Program will be relocated to Sabater Elementary School. He explained the parameters that were used in building the new zones for the home school areas.

Mr. Callavini said we have had some budget issues and have cut back on courtesy busing for the high school. He said we will have a new loading and unloading zone for the buses at the high school. Mr. Callavini said the parent notification letters will be generated as soon as possible to notify the parents affected by the school changes. He said in June open houses will be scheduled for the affected students so they can visit the new buildings and meet the principals. Mr. Callavini said they will also be accepting care givers requests in June.

Dr. Gruccio said Mr. Callavini spent many hours working on the maps so we can be as consistent as possible in trying to keep students within their home school zones.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from April 10, 2013, April 17, 2013 and April 23, 2013. All Members voted “yes.”

Report by Board
Secretary and
Correspondence:

None.

Solicitor’s Report:

Mr. DeSanto said at last week’s work session the board expressed concerns about the amount of time our principals were spending in municipal court involved with truancy hearings. He contacted the district truancy officers to get some background information and learned that each officer is assigned to the high school and two middle schools. Mr. DeSanto said our elementary principals are involved with truancy complaints against parents involving students at elementary schools. He said that he met with Judge Kasper at Vineland Municipal Court and City Prosecutor Acosta. Mr. DeSanto thanked them for meeting with him on such short notice. He said that a reasonable solution was worked out with Judge Kasper to our problem. Mr. DeSanto said Judge Kasper will not require our truancy officers or principals to attend the first hearing. He said if the individual pleads not guilty they will be notified for the second hearing date. Mr. DeSanto said Prosecutor Acosta agreed that the notifications can be sent out so the truancy officer and principal appear at 10:30 a.m. He said Ms. Acosta also said that the principals can call her around 10:00 a.m. and if her list is running late she will let them know. Mr. DeSanto said he will brief the principals on the process at the May 14th principals meeting. He hopes this will greatly reduce the involvement of our staff at truancy hearings.

Public Comments on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

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

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
of School Monies:

Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the months of February and March of 2013, 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."

Approval of Bills:

Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted "yes" (\$4,935,013.16).

Emergent Item(s)
(with prior approval)

None.

Public:

None.

Committee Reports:

Mr. DiGiorgio said discussed at the Finance Committee meeting was the results and findings of the transportation audit, school safety and security, facility rental fees, summer facility projects, redistricting, third pay deductions, summer food service program and rotation of RFP for professional services.

Dr. Mounier said discussed at the Policy & Personnel Committee meeting was Skype for meetings, peanut free preschool, Policy #5330 substance abuse, standard of eligibility for participation in extra-curricular activities, uniforms and temporary director of security.

Mr. English said he has not seen the regulation for the 2.0 GPA for participation in sports and other extra-curricular activities. Mr. Medio said it is still in policy & personnel because there is no mechanism for an appeal process. Ms. Morello thinks the intent is to allow the students who are doing the best they can do under a variety of circumstances still have a shot. Mr. Ulrich agrees that there should be an appeal process. Mr. English said he did not want this to be put on the back burner.

Dr. Mounier said the intention behind this was to ensure that the students who are capable of academic excellence do not take the easy way out and we do not punish those who cannot. Mr. English asked for clarification that the board will vote on the policy not the regulation and whatever the regulation states the policy would need to be changed. Mr. DeSanto said the policy is the board's jurisdiction and the regulations are administrative. He said the board does not pass on the regulations but the policy can be as broad and detailed as you want it to be.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Ulrich congratulated all the students tonight on their performances. He wished Mr. Melamed well through his process.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked the students who performed tonight.

Mr. English thanked the Cap n' Dagger, Middle School Performing Arts, Safety Patrol and Wizardry Group who came out tonight. He recognized the spring athletic programs. Mr. English suggested looking into having a concession stand for the sports events.

Mr. Mercado thanked the flag salute students. He also thanked the middle and high school cast/crew members along with Mr. Melamed and Ms. Volpe. Mr. Mercado said board members try their best to attend the end of the year activities and he thanked the schools for the invitations.

Mr. DeSanto said the bids for the interior renovations for Almond Road School were rejected by the board. He said the board received a report from Mr. Merighi and he advised the board that he will revise the specifications to have the district do some of the work and lower the cost. Mr. DeSanto said the board decided tonight to reject the bid and to re-advertise.

Ms. Morello congratulated the elementary arts students who were represented in the art show, which is one of the best events during the year. She thanked the students that performed and the staff that supports them.

Dr. Guccio thanked all the students and advisors for their time tonight. She wished Mr. DiGiorgio a Happy Birthday and Mr. Ulrich well on his surgery.

Report/Remarks by
Board President: None.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote to executive session at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherie Ludy
Board Secretary

CL:df

