

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Vineland High School North Auditorium, 3010 E. Chestnut Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Pagano, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. DeWinne.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, 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: Students from Johnstone Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public Provision relied upon. Discussion of HIB appeal of Vineland High School North student. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public 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 the discussion is Vineland Education Association Grievance. 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. **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 Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes”.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Melanie Anderson, VHS Play Director to honor students and advisors who contributed to the success of the Vineland High School musical *Mary Poppins*.

Ms. Anderson thanked the Board for honoring the Cap n’ Dagger students tonight. She said these students have had a rigorous successful season and are true professionals. Ms. Anderson introduced each of the crew and cast members who were presented with certificates.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mr. Ross Stanger, VASA President, to honor the Vineland Public Schools Administrator of the year.

Mr. Stanger said he is here this evening to recognize Mrs. Jennifer Frederico, Principal of Petway Elementary school, as the VASA Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Guccio said that she along with Mr. Frangipani and Mr. English will be honoring the teachers who are recognized as Teachers of the Year for 2015-2016. Mr. Frangipani introduced each of the Teachers of the Year.

Student Liaison

Report:

Mr. Jeff Martine said tomorrow the National Honor Society will be selling Rita’s Water Ice from 12:30 p.m. until after school. The proceeds will go to pancreatic cancer research. Mr. Martine said also tomorrow the Junior Class will be having an assembly to hear the speeches of the candidates who are running for class office. He said the election will follow on Friday morning. Mr. Martine announced that on May 17th the class of 2016 will be hosting a fundraiser at Moe’s from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., May 18th the annual Powderpuff Football Game will be held and on May 19th is the moving up ceremony. A Project Graduation fundraiser breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 15th by the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department.

Mr. English asked how the 2016 graduation assembly went. Mr. Martine said it went smoothly.

Dr. Gruccio thanked the coach of the 1979 track team for donating a painting to Vineland High School that was done by a student from that team.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Sbrana, the minutes were approved from April 5, 2016, April 13, 2016 and April 26, 2016. All Members voted “yes.”

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Ms. Acosta, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$7,860,225.27).

Mr. English thanked everyone and said he appreciates that we are using local vendors.

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

Public: Gyannie Gonzalez, student
Ms. Gonzalez said she acquired 353 signatures, on a petition she initiated, in regards to graduation being held on the last day of school. She urged the Board to have graduation on the last day of school.

Ms. Delores, (spoke in Spanish translated by Gyannie Gonzalez)
Ms. Delores spoke in support of having graduation on the last day of school.

Mr. English commended Ms. Gonzalez for speaking tonight. He said change is never embraced well but changes happen. Mr. English said this falls under day to day operations and is a position the district has made.

Dr. Gruccio said we did listen to what Ms. Gonzalez said at the last Board meeting. She said we spoke to many people about the graduation date and feel it is supported. Dr. Gruccio said we will do everything we can to make it a positive experience.

Jeff Martine, student
Mr. Martine congratulated and spoke in support of Mrs. Kuhnreich for being chosen Cumberland County Teacher of the Year.

Board Member
Remarks: Ms. Acosta congratulated all the wonderful teachers and professionals who were honored tonight. She recognized all teachers, administrators, and support staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Sbrana echoed the comments made by Ms. Acosta regarding our professionals. He said our students continue to do amazing things and distinguish themselves in academics, the arts and all extra-curricular activities in the district. Mr. Sbrana said he wants our students to enjoy every minute of these activities but implored them to act responsibly and to be safe.

Ms. Rios congratulated Johnstone Elementary students for the flag salute along with the participants in the Vineland High School musical. She also congratulated all the administrators, teachers and educational professionals of the year. Ms. Rios thanked Gyannie Gonzalez for speaking tonight and expressing how she felt.

Mr. Bordley echoed all the comments made in regards to the professionals. He wished Ms. Gonzalez the best and hopes everything works out the way she would like it.

Mr. Pagano shared the same sentiments as his colleagues. He thanked the Johnstone Elementary students for the flag salute and congratulated everyone who was recognized tonight.

Ms. Codispoti thanked the Johnstone Elementary School students for coming out. She thanked and congratulated Mrs. Frederico along with all of our teachers and professionals. Ms. Codispoti thanked Mr. Martine for attending the Board meetings and keeping the Board informed. She said that her heart goes out to Ms. Gonzalez and she understands where she is coming from. Ms. Codispoti urged the seniors to enjoy the last month of school and to be safe. She thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the teachers, staff and students.

Dr. Gruccio congratulated everyone who was honored and recognized tonight. She feels very honored to work with such wonderful people in this district. Dr. Gruccio said we have so much talent and there are so many wonderful things happening in our district. She said that she hopes Ms. Gonzalez realizes that we took some of her suggestions and tried to make the situation better. Dr. Gruccio thanked Ms. Gonzalez and said that she sees her as one of our leaders in the community as time goes on.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English said our goal is to have buses ready for the students after they receive their diploma. He said we had a very productive meeting today with Dr. Gruccio along with Dr. Elliott, Mr. Vivarelli and Mr. Mercoli from the Cumberland County Vo-Tech. He expressed his concern on the lack of interest in the trades and said it is his goal to create the interest again in Vineland.

Ms. Rios asked if they are still testing in 8th grade for the trades. Dr. Gruccio said representatives of the CC Vo-Tech went into all of our middle schools and spoke with our 7th and 8th graders.

Ms. Acosta said she believes that anything the CC Vo-Tech can do we can do better. She said it takes money and that is why she has been very adamant that cutting resources and staff members is not the solution. Ms. Acosta said we need to start investing in our own district and thinking about the future.

Mr. Jennings said he agrees with Ms. Acosta. He said we have to fortify our guidance counselors.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Codispoti, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to adjourn the meeting by voice vote at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

