

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, June 11, 2014 at 7:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Ms. Rios and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. DeWinne.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mrs. Polof, Assistant Superintendents, Mr. Schectman, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, 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 Rossi Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution: Mr. Schectman read a resolution to convene into executive session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10-4-12. Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body Specify contract: VASA Unfair Practice Charges. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If pending/anticipated litigation the matter is the 2014 2015 budget appeal. 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. 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 discussion is tenure charges against four teachers and a discussion of contracts for administrative staff.

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. DiGiorgio, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DeWinne who “abstained.”

Special

Presentation (s): Mr. Medio introduced Mr. McDevitt to honor the VHS students who were involved in the Cap n’ Dagger school production.

Mr. McDevitt recognized the students who were involved in the musical production *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. He said they won a number of awards at the Bucks County Playhouse and he introduced Mia Massara to discuss the awards.

Mr. McDevitt honored the VHS Marching Band who competed and won Grand Champion award in the Fiesta-val Competition held in Virginia.

Mr. Medio introduced Mr. Don Robbins and Mr. Lou Tramontana to honor the track and crew athletes.

Mr. Robbins introduced Mr. Elliott DeShields, Head Track Coach at Vineland High School.

Mr. DeShields congratulated the marching band and drama team. He introduced Mr. Jeremiah Atoki who was the Group 4 State Champion in the 200 meter dash.

Mr. Robbins introduced Aria Asselta, student athlete, to speak on behalf of the boys and girls crew team.

Ms. Asselta discussed what the crew season entails and what they have achieved.

Mr. Robbins introduced Miss Lauren Lillie, Head Girls Crew Coach and Mr. Joe LaRosa, Head Boys Crew Coach, to introduce the student athletes.

Mr. Medio introduced Mr. Ken Schultz, Rossi Middle School Band Director, to honor the students who performed in Boston.

Mr. Schultz congratulated the high school band and crew team. He recognized the Rossi Middle School Band who in April performed in a musical competition in Boston.

Mr. Medio introduced Mr. Joe Camardo, Veterans Memorial School Principal, to honor the select choir and school band.

Mr. Camardo introduced Mr. Ed Zatzariny, Band Director and Mrs. Eileen Eller, Choir Director to introduce and recognize the Veterans Memorial Band and Choir who received superior ratings at a performance in North Jersey.

Dr. Gruccio thanked and congratulated everyone who was recognized tonight.

Mr. Medio announced that Mr. DeWinne arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the minutes were approved from May 6, 2014, May 7, 2014, May 14, 2014 and May 21, 2014. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Jennings who voted “yes” for the May 14, 2014 minutes and “abstained” on May 6, 2014, May 7, 2014 and May 21, 2014 and Mr. Ulrich who voted “yes” for all minutes and “abstained” on meetings he was not present at and Mr. English who voted “yes” for all minutes except the May 21, 2014 minutes he “abstained.”

The Board took a five minute recess at 7:46 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:51 p.m.

Report of the
Secretary/Custodian
Of School Monies:

Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month April of 2014, 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."

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. DeSanto said one of the items that the Board will discuss in executive session tonight is the renewal of the contracts for four central office administrators. He said under the Open Public Meetings Act discussions involving terms and conditions of employment, discipline and other issues involving employment are to be discussed in executive session unless the individual requests for that executive session to be held in public. Mr. DeSanto said he was notified that the four administrators were provided Rice Notices, which allows an executive discussion to be moved out into the public. He said the discussion is the same as if it were in closed session it is just that the public and employees involved can hear what is being discussed. Mr. DeSanto said he has been advised that the four central office administrators have requested that the Board hold their executive session in public. He said when the time comes to discuss their contracts it will take place in public in the Board room.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

None.

The Board recessed to public executive session at 7:54 to discuss the contracts of the four central office administrators.

Mr. Jennings said he supports Mr. Schectman because he has been in the position just under a year and we need to give him an opportunity to have a clean slate and fresh start. He thinks he is the man for the job and believes that we will see a better performance from Mr. Schectman because there were a lot of factors that were out of his control with the budget and we need to support him. Mr. Jennings said he will probably vote "no" for Mrs. Polof's position because there were a few performance issues. He would like to look at eliminating that position because of budget concerns.

Dr. Guccio said in regards to these four individuals she feels extremely privileged to work with them. She said there has been several conversations now and in the past in regard to eliminating one of the assistant superintendent positions. Dr. Guccio welcomes any Board Member any day of the week to shadow any of them. She said in her opinion to eliminate an assistant superintendent would be detrimental to this district. Dr. Guccio said the budget appeal was not granted and this is a position that they have said should be in our budget and in the district. She said we are a large district and all the surrounding districts have two assistant superintendents. Dr. Guccio said she is not sure that the Board understands the magnitude of what that position entails. She said Mrs. Polof oversees all of the principals, interacts with them on a daily basis, implemented the new observation procedure, puts out fires on a daily basis, returns hundreds of phone calls to parents every week, oversees the HIB process, has taken on the role of the guidance counselors since the supervisor was eliminated, goes above and beyond. Dr. Guccio feels it would be detrimental to eliminate that position.

Dr. Guccio said in regards to Mr. Schectman he has not been given a year to show his qualities. She said the assistant business administrator resigned last year and Mr. Schectman worked alone for three months. Dr. Guccio said Mr. Schectman had to correct the general ledger and provided a corrective action plan based on the material errors in our audit report last year. She said Mr. Schectman has met every state guideline and deadline for reporting, which was not done in the past. Dr. Guccio said Mr. Schectman has brought all of the board secretary reports up to date. She said everyone is entitled to at least a year to learn in their position.

Dr. Guccio said Mr. Frey has brought a wealth of knowledge to technology and has held people accountable. She said Mr. Frey has made sure that the jobs that need to get done are done with no complaints from the principals.

Dr. Guccio said Dr. Rossi has shown a tremendous amount of accountability. He has worked on attendance issues and district attendance has improved.

Dr. Gruccio thinks this team has the utmost integrity, work hard together, respect one another, admit when wrong, collaborate and try to do what is right for the children. She said one of the biggest problems in the district is that we do not have continuity. Dr. Gruccio said it has been years since we have had continuity and a team of people working with the Board in trying to move our district in an appropriate direction. She said that these people are some of the hardest working people in the district whether you like them as a person. Dr. Gruccio said they have not said a word when everyone in the entire district received a raise and they are given zero. She said they have also lost \$2,000 each to their unions. Dr. Gruccio urged the Board to consider continuity and to give people enough time to get familiar with the district, job and each other. She is very blessed to be given the opportunity to work with each of them and hopes the Board thinks very hard before voting no on any of them.

Mr. Ulrich disagreed with Mr. Jennings in regards to the elimination of Ruth Polof's position. He said when you compare this district to other districts in the area we are not overloaded with administrators. Mr. Ulrich said he disagrees with the Superintendent in regards to the union dues. He does not know of any public employee where the district or city pays for their union dues. Mr. Ulrich said union dues provide legal representation when there is a grievance against the Board of Education and taxpayers of this municipality. He said it is unconscionable for the taxpayers to pay for an employee to litigate us. Mr. Ulrich said as far as the raises he supports a cost of living adjustment, which was set at 1.6%. He feels cutting an assistant superintendent position would be detrimental.

Ms. Morello agrees with Mr. Ulrich as far as the association dues because we are striving to have some continuity and compliance with all the unions. She said on the fact of whether or not the state will allow this when we are dictated to by those people who were not elected to represent the constituents of the City of Vineland. She said that she is going to cast her vote this evening to represent her desires of what she wants her budget to look like. Ms. Morello said we were elected to do what we think is right and we know what we have coming our way in terms of astronomical increases for the benefit package and contractual salary increases. She is voting to make this budget the way she voted as a Board Member.

Mr. DiGiorgio said this is the tough part of the job when you have to deal with personnel and people's livelihoods are at stake. He said these are all good individuals and nothing is personal. Mr. DiGiorgio said as Board Members part of our governance responsibilities, in his opinion, is to address this area. He said that his observations are that these people are very well paid to run the district. Mr. DiGiorgio said he was not happy with what they went through as a Board during the budget process. He said the viewpoint from the public of this board is not high and he thinks administration has something to do with that. Mr. DiGiorgio said when you are applying for this magnitude of a position you have to come in, hit the ground running and know what you are getting involved with. Mr. DiGiorgio feels that efforts during the budget process and policy making adjustments were met with obfuscation and misdirection. He said as a Board Member he is not the expert at this business and neither are the rest of his colleagues. Mr. DiGiorgio said he relies on personnel to make this district run well and the Board is here to oversee that this district runs well. He has a lot in his mind that will help him make the decision tonight on whether these people are approved or not.

Mr. Baruffi said he has not slept so poorly as he has in the last six months. He said it is a tough job and no one wants to be the bad guy when voting. Mr. Baruffi said he is a good listener and will try to make the best decision possible.

Mr. DeSanto reminded the Board that the statute that governs the renewal of these contracts of non-tenured individuals in these positions indicate that the statutory words are the decision and cannot be arbitrary and capricious. He said that means there has to be a reason or reasons in the event that you take negative action against one or more of the personnel involved. Mr. DeSanto said whether reasons are stated by Board members in this executive session or at the time of the vote they are entitled to know what the reasons are if there is a non-renewal. He said therefore the reasons should be stated now because they cannot be created after the fact. Mr. DeSanto said his advice in counsel to the Board is that you should express in general the reasons why you are voting against a particular renewal.

Mr. Medio said individual Board members should state why they as an individual are voting "no" if they vote "no."

Mr. DeSanto said for example in this discussion if two or three board members expressed concern about an individual's performance in a particular subject or with respect to a particular issue. A Board member can indicate I am voting "no" for the reasons stated by Board member A. He said there has to be a reason or reasons stated. Mr. DeSanto said if an individual requests a statement for reasons we have to prepare a response to that. He said his concern is that this is done under the proper procedure.

Mr. Jennings asked if this could be a verbal statement. Mr. DeSanto responded yes.

Mr. DeWinne asked Mr. DeSanto if he is looking to satisfy himself as far as documentation goes in regards to the comments he may hear. Mr. DeSanto said yes you need to express them now or express them at the time of your vote or both. He said we need to have it on tonight's record in case we receive a request for statement of reasons. Mr. DeSanto said it is his job to make sure the Board does this properly and in accordance with the guidelines we are given. Mr. DeWinne does not know why this cannot be done after the fact if the motion is denied. He does not think this needs to be done. Mr. DeSanto said the statement of reasons only comes into play in the event that there are five votes against the renewal. Mr. DeWinne said he does not give reasons as to why he votes "no" on a lot of things. Mr. Ulrich said it is a dismissal of an employee. Mr. DeSanto said NJSA 18:27-4.1 is the statute that covers this particular issue. He said there are not statutes that cover every "no" vote and he is only going by this issue. Mr. DeSanto said it states "the Board shall not withhold its approval for arbitrary or capricious reasons. An officer or employee whose employment contract is not renewed shall have the right to a written statement of reasons for non-renewal and to an informal appearance before the Board." Mr. DeWinne asked what the timeline is on an appearance before the Board.

Ms. Morello asked what happens when there is a vote, for example, to non-renew a teacher and they want a Donaldson Hearing. Mr. DeSanto said the executive sessions in those cases are not held in public and the non-renewal is generally based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. He said the Superintendent states the reasons and the Board votes to agree with the Superintendent for the reasons she has stated. Mr. DeSanto said in this case the Superintendent is not recommending non-renewal but recommending renewal.

Ms. Morello asked if reasons need to be given because this is an executive session being held in a public forum. Mr. DeSanto said no, many times the discussion of any Superintendent's recommendation for non-renewal is shared with the Board in executive session and you come out and vote. He said if you come out and vote not to renew the teacher and the teacher asks for a statement of reasons and a Donaldson Hearing we are using the reasons stated by the Superintendent in her recommendation. Mr. DeSanto said here we do not have reasons from the Superintendent to except. He said we have Board members who may or may not disapprove her recommendation so where are the reasons coming from if they are not expressed by the Board.

Mr. Medio asked if he was correct in saying that arbitrary and capricious is a very high standard. Mr. DeSanto said it is a legal term that has no concrete definition. He said arbitrary and capricious means that it has no foundation whatsoever. Mr. Medio said his first reason as to why he will be voting "no" on the Assistant Superintendent of Administration is because he is consistent. He ran for Board in 2010 and 2011 stating that the position did not need to be filled. Mr. Medio said we had several Finance Committee meetings and the committee put forth a budget that included cuts and that was one of them. He said there were several other cuts, which he also supported. He said there is nothing arbitrary and capricious about trying to cut money in your budget. Mr. Medio said another reason for not voting for the business administrator is he does not feel that he has been given any direction that was helpful in the budget making process. He said that he still to this day has not been told when a Board member can put something into the budget. Mr. Medio said if he remembers correctly when we had the very first vote Mr. Ulrich said he voted "yes" because we are just voting on the number. Mr. Ulrich said that was correct. Mr. Medio said when we had the following budget meeting we were told that we could only move certain things around in the budget with a 10% limit, which was the first time we ever heard any of that. He said if we knew that before we would have done things differently.

Ms. Rios said she thought there was a lack of communication between the Business Administrator and the Board. She said there were several instances when several Finance Committee members requested information including her and did not receive it in a timely matter in order to make an informative decision when it came to the budget process. She said that was her first time on the Finance Committee and she must say it was the worst out of all the committees she has ever been on. Ms. Rios said nothing personal about the person but she believes that lack of communication existed and should not have because there should be communication with the board whether you like someone or not. She said we are elected officials and do deserve to know how things are run, costs, and why things are ran the way they are. Ms. Rios feels there were several committee members who asked for information and either did not receive it, received it late or through other sources. She said it made the budget process very difficult and that is why she feels that she cannot support this individual in this position. Ms. Rios said nothing personal against the individual but it is part of your job to be able to communicate effectively and inform the Board when it comes to a two hundred million dollar budget as to how and where it is being spent, how we can save money and provide the information necessary so the Board can make an informative decision. Ms. Rios said she agrees with Mr. Ulrich in regards to union dues because she is a union member and those dues come out of her pocket. She said she makes a lot less money than a lot of individuals.

The executive session was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Public Comments:

Lee Burke

Mr. Burke said it is sad to see that this particular Board has lost its way. He feels that this Board has made its decisions regarding the Superintendent and her particular duties/responsibilities as the only person you can hire or fire. Mr. Burke said what the Board is effectively trying to do for various reasons is eliminate the team which pulls the chair out from underneath the Superintendent. He has also seen this happen with other Superintendents here. Mr. Burke said there seems to be a track record with this district that is more than embarrassing. He said you are dealing with people's lives. Mr. Burke said you are here as elected representatives and are not able to put aside what seems to be biases against certain positions. He said you are not able to evaluate because you have never been in that position of evaluation or have had the opportunity to get to know the aspects of how a central administration could be improved.

Mr. Burke said it seems the Board wants to take apart everything rather than improve it. He said if he had his way he would give each Board Member a compass because they certainly do not know where their direction is going.

Ms. Morello said can we not have a meeting here ever again until the acoustics improve or some kind of something because it is impossible to hear.

Mr. English said as far as Board members running the day to day operations at what point do we cross that with a vote like this. Mr. DeSanto said we all know that under the Code of Ethics, which is now codified, the Board is not allowed to micromanage or run the day to day operations. He said the Board is to see to it that they are well run. Mr. DeSanto said where is the line between the Board's responsibility for oversight, protecting the purse strings and running the day to day operations. He said there is a gray area but we know when a Board member directs a Superintendent to do something, interferes with other administrators and insists that something be done or not done it is micromanaging. Mr. DeSanto said under the statute the Board has the ability to have the Superintendent report to them monthly or otherwise with respect to certain activities or functions. He said the Board can hold the Superintendent accountable for that particular operation or program. He said that is part of your oversight and not micromanaging. Mr. English said the portion concerning the contract has been closed but he has a couple more questions. Mr. DeSanto said there will be discussion when the Superintendent makes the recommendation for those four contracts.

Ms. Rios said she does not want to disappoint Mr. Burke. She asked if the Board has the right to vote "no" because if she cannot vote "no" she will "abstain" because she does not want to do something illegal or micromanage the district in any way. Mr. DeSanto said the law is that the Superintendent makes recommendations on personnel. He said you are to take what the Superintendent suggests with great deference but you are not to rubber stamp all of the recommendations. Mr. DeSanto said the Board is entitled to vote "no" on a recommendation. He said one would hope and assume there are sound reasons for the vote.

Dr. Gruccio asked for clarification that if a Board member votes “no” are they supposed to state a reason why. Mr. DeSanto said he is only talking about a statement of reasons if there is a non-renewal. Dr. Gruccio said if a Board member votes “no” to non-renew do they have to give a reason why. Mr. DeSanto said based upon the discussion in executive session there does not appear by what he has heard or seen that there is any reason to express any “no” vote on two of those appointments. He said he heard there are two appointments that may be an issue. Mr. DeSanto suggested that the people who are voting “no” on those appointments state their reasons.

Mr. Medio said at this time 8:35 p.m. the Board needs to adjourn back to executive session for non-public items concerning litigation and will return.

The meeting resumed at 9:30 p.m.

Recommendations:

B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

Mr. DeSanto said he brought this matter up in his report last week. He said the School Ethics Commission has rendered a decision and reaffirmed it with respect to five conflicted Board members not permitted to engage in the evaluation process of the Superintendent. Mr. DeSanto said the Board has a decision to make by December 31st whether to renew or non-renew the Superintendent. Mr. DeSanto advised the Board last week that you adopt a motion tonight to authorize him to request a specific ethics commission opinion on whether or not all nine Board members may participate in the decision to renew or non-renew the Superintendent. He believes that we should invoke the Doctrine of Necessity and that all nine Board members should be allowed to participate. Mr. DeSanto said we need clearance by the School Ethics Commission, which is why he is asking for the chair to entertain a motion to authorize a request for an Ethics opinion regarding the renewal or non-renewal of the Superintendent's contract.

Mr. Medio said this is a negative law because most laws involve voting in a positive manner to have a positive action. He said this is one where no action involves a positive action. Mr. Medio said all Board members who are physically and mentally able to vote will vote on that motion when the time comes regardless of what the Ethics Commission say. He said because we are following the law and that is what the law says. Mr. Medio said you have to have a Board vote of renewal or non-renewal by the full Board. Mr. DeSanto said yes and that is the legal basis for invoking the Doctrine of Necessity. He said the process is when a Board faces a potential issue like this the Board invokes, upon the advice of the solicitor, the Doctrine of Necessity. He said in his opinion a majority of the full membership of the Board is required to act. Mr. DeSanto said he has been asked to appear next week at the School Law Forum by NJ School Boards because everyone is flabbergasted by the ethics opinion regarding Vineland, which is an understatement. He said we want to have a discussion and he was asked to present the Vineland experience on the Doctrine of Necessity. Mr. DeSanto said the School Ethics Commission passed a resolution ten years ago saying that whenever a Board adopts the Doctrine of Necessity they want a copy of the resolution and want to decide if it was properly invoked. He said they said we did not properly invoke it with respect to the evaluation. Mr. DeSanto said there are four people who cannot make a decision on whether or not the Superintendent's contract is renewed or non-renewed. He wants the Board's permission to do this now because we have time between now and December to regroup in the event it is negative. Mr. DeSanto said if the opinion is adverse and the Board wants to do what they want to do then the chips may fall and he does not advise to ignore it.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Rios, to authorize Mr. DeSanto to request a specific Ethics Commission opinion on whether or not all nine Board members may participate in the decision to renew or non-renew the Superintendent. All Members voted “yes.”

Ms. Morello said State Assembly Bill #3081 was brought forward by Washington Township School Board proposing a creation of an Education Reform Task Force. She said this bill addresses the PARCC Assessment, new teacher evaluation and the Common Core implementation. Ms. Morello said all of these things are rolling into NJ Schools within a one year time frame. She requested at some point that all of her colleagues look at this and draft a resolution supporting it. Ms. Morello said there are so many new things this year overwhelming the system that are useless.

Mr. DeSanto said he would have a resolution ready for next month’s work session.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” except Mr. DeWinne, Mr. Ulrich, Mr. English who voted “yes” on all bills but “no” on Grainger and Mr. DiGiorgio who voted “yes” on all bills but “no” to Grainger and Buzz Bookworm. (\$4,632,885.78)

Mr. Jennings asked if staff members can reduce the dollar value of the bills and watch what they are spending.

Mr. Medio said it is the will of this Board to stop whatever we are doing with Grainger. Does Administration understand that? Dr. Gruccio said the Board needs to understand why we are using Grainger and she believes that Mr. Schectman has explained that in detail in the past. Mr. Medio said he is going to vote “yes” for the last time and he does not know what else has to be done to get the message across. Ms. Morello said you need to vote “no” on a future bill date.

Mr. English said he reviewed the purchase orders and there are things on there that he understands that you need in an emergency. He said but spray paint, duct tape, gloves and tape measures no.

Dr. Gruccio said we have made every effort to try to use local vendors but we cannot force them to get on the state contract.

Mr. Medio said the last time he was on the Board there was an extensive list of bid items, time and material bids that went out.

Public: None.

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

Board Member

Remarks:

Ms. Morello congratulated all students and parents honored this evening. She wished all graduating students a safe and happy summer. Ms. Morello also wished all students and staffs a productive restful wonderful summer.

Mr. Baruffi congratulated the advisors and coaches of students honored tonight.

Mr. Ulrich congratulated the arts, marching band and drama students. He said we are supporting the crew team with great equipment and we are seeing the dividends. Mr. Ulrich said he tries to never put personalities in play and makes decisions that are best for the district. He thanked Mr. Schectman and Mrs. Polof for all their time and effort. Mr. Ulrich feels Mrs. Polof's position is sorely needed for our district and strongly disagrees with the Board members. He truly believes that we are not overstaffed. Mr. Ulrich said to put those duties on to other people and the remaining assistant superintendent we have sent a message to him to get out of Dodge too.

Mr. DeWinne said the Cap n Dagger are always great and the high school band practices hard achieving a lot. He said the middle school music programs have grown tremendously. Mr. DeWinne said we have nationally recognized student athletes from Vineland that are in the top of their sport. He said we should be funding more in athletics and extra-curricular activities. Mr. DeWinne said tough decisions were made tonight and everyone is here to do the right thing. He said we are sacrificing our time to be here and represent the taxpayers.

Ms. Rios agrees with Mr. DeWinne that we truly care and she always tries to do what is best for the district. She congratulated all of tonight's honorees and thanked the flag salute students. Ms. Rios thanked a student in the language program for caring about the seniors.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked everyone for the district's success.

Mr. English said it was a tough night tonight because we care. He thanked Mrs. Polof and Mr. Schectman for the job they have done and wished them success in future endeavors. Mr. English said it should never be personal and tonight was tough but we have to move forward. He said to see our athletes and art students continually progress is huge for this district because he has a vision in the future of the arts academy. Mr. English said he is looking forward to the next couple of weeks and promoting good in the district. He said we as Board members do not agree on everything but have the best interest of students, taxpayers, teachers and staff at heart. Mr. English hopes the message has been sent and the communication piece has to continue.

Board President
Remarks:

Mr. Medio said as far as all the activities in Vineland he agrees with Mr. DeWinne that these activities are all underfunded. He said we tried to put more money into sports. Mr. Medio said we are better putting money into sports rather than remedial programs that do not work. He congratulated, Greg Geraci, track coach, on his accomplishments. Mr. Medio said if anybody can find a better investment than putting a million dollars into arts and extra-curricular activities like sports tell him what it is. He said when these students receive full scholarships it is the equivalent of two hundred thousand dollars in many instances. Mr. Medio said the month of June is the best month as a Board member.

Adjournment: The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Herbert G. Schectman
Board Secretary

HGS:df

