

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, July 10, 2013 at 5:45 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, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Flag salute:

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.

The Board retired to executive session for a residency hearing at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

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 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. Possible collective bargaining issues regarding School Psychologists. 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 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 to discuss general issues of job performance and district administration regarding central office administrators.

**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): None.

**Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance** – Ms. Morello asked Mrs. Polof if she has any plans in trying to share best practices of the schools that may have a deeper understanding in identifying the difference between a conflict between students and actual HIB incidents. Mrs. Polof said yes meetings have been held with the HIB specialist in each building.

Mr. English asked if the discipline policy has been changed to reflect that there is no longer in school suspension. Mrs. Polof said it has not been completely changed and there have been ongoing discussions with the high school principals.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, to accept the HIB reports. All Members voted “yes.”

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the minutes were approved from June 5, 2013 and June 12, 2013. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Jennings and Ms. Morello who voted “yes” on all minutes except June 12, 2013 they “abstained.”

Report by the  
Board Secretary  
and Correspondence: None.

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on  
Agenda Items:       None.

Recommendations:

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

a. Board Secretary

Report:

Upon motion by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English, the reports of the Secretary and Custodian of School Monies for the month of May 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."

b. 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" (\$4,961,060.39). All Members voted "yes" except Ms. Morello who voted "yes" on all payments except check #253769 and #253879 she "abstained."

Ms. Morello asked what school was involved in the student of the month payment. Ms. Ludy said it was paid through the No Child Left Behind grant for 54 students. She will email her what school it involved.

c. FIRST reading

Policy #8600

Pupil Transportation:

Ms. Morello asked if pre-k students have an entirely differently policy than the K through twelve students. Dr. Gruccio responded yes.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked the transportation department for all their work and efforts to achieve efficiency and reduce the overall budget. He expressed his concern on student safety and said that he is not comfortable with increasing the distance parameters under this policy. Mr. DiGiorgio said some of the roads concern him and we need to have safe routes. Mr. Jennings asked if a half mile makes much of a difference. Mr. DiGiorgio said we need to do something collaboratively with the city to improve our walking pathways for the students. He does not think there is any motivation or effort to make this an important issue. Dr. Gruccio said this is actually the responsibility of the municipality and not the school district, which makes it difficult. Mr. Mercado said many times builders get waivers not to put sidewalks in and the city should not allow waivers.

Public:

Steve Lewis, History Teacher

Mr. Lewis said he has made two attempts with the Board of Education to request a Donaldson Hearing. He said his first attempt was hand delivered to the board office on June 13<sup>th</sup> and he received a response back a few days later in which the Board Solicitor said the request was untimely. Mr. Lewis said the very next day he responded back that he could have been one of the 164 non-tenured teachers recalled on June 12<sup>th</sup>. He said a second request was sent June 19<sup>th</sup> via email and he also mailed out a copy to the board members. Mr. Lewis said he has not received a response back. Mr. Lewis said he left a tenured position to teach in Vineland because this is the place he wanted to spend the rest of his career. He does not feel it is too much to ask for the courtesy of a response. Mr. Lewis requested for the board to take a vote tonight to have a Donaldson Hearing to present his case.

Bianna Gheysens

Ms. Gheysens expressed her concern in regards to not receiving a response back on a matter that involves her grandson. She asked if any decisions have been made to grant any waiver requests from parents/guardians concerning the transfer of students.

Rebecca Barber

Ms. Barber questioned why she was not rehired for the next school year and would appreciate knowing why this decision was made.

Mr. Mercado asked if exit interviews are conducted for staff that has been rified. Dr. Rossi said not to his knowledge. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if that is a practice that is not necessary in districts. Dr. Rossi said riffs are a very difficult situation and he is not aware of that practice.

Brianna Rowland, student

Ms. Rowland spoke in support of Ms. Rebecca Barber and Mr. Steven Lewis.

d. SECOND reading

Policy #2468

Bylaw #0710:

Ms. Morello asked if Policy #2468 is the result of legislation or law. Dr. Guccio said it is regarding independent child study teams and their parameters.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Mercado, seconded by Mr. English to approve Policy #2468 and Bylaw #0710. All Members voted “yes.”

Mr. Ulrich said he would like to see sick time donation shifted to the employees. He suggested drafting a policy for the donation of sick time by employees, which would shift the burden away from the taxpayers. Mr. Ulrich requested for Dr. Mounier to reintroduce this to the Policy & Personnel committee. Mr. Medio said we will give those policies to the Policy & Personnel committee and at the next meeting we will ask representatives from the three unions if they have any input or ideas.

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

Board Member

Remarks:

Ms. Rios said she “abstained” on the bus canopy at the high school because she would like to see what other areas are in need of improvement. She said it was a pleasure to work with Ms. Ludy and she is going to miss her.

Mr. DiGiorgio thanked Mr. DeSanto for providing him information on the restraint policy. He is requesting for the Policy & Personnel committee to review the restraint policy to see if there is a way we can have retired police officers utilizing handcuffs in situations.

Mr. English expressed his concern as to why a customer of his lives three miles from Rossi School but is being bused ten miles to Landis School. He said that he echoes the sentiments of Ms. Rios but this was a situation where we can spend \$180,000 on busing or correct the problem. Mr. English said hopefully this is a permanent solution. He said that he is a businessman and the key to a successful business is customer service. Mr. English feels that everyone deserves a return phone call even if you do not have the answer.

Mr. Mercado congratulated Diamaris Rios on being honored at the Puerto Rican festival.

Ms. Morello said she would like a weekly email update on the redistricting and overall progress. She said that she emailed the Curriculum & Instruction committee meeting minutes to the board members and there was an addendum, which was about NJ Teach. Ms. Morello said it is not hard to give people respect and respond to an email, phone call or request. She said Ms. Gheysens has a history of not receiving answers now and in the past. Ms. Morello said deadlines are a beautiful thing and this agenda was ridiculous to go through.

Ms. Rios said when she receives a complaint or problem she forwards it to Dr. Gruccio. She requested a response back when the problem is taken care of so she does not have to worry about it any longer.

Ms. Morello said she does not understand why people feel they are not going to be well received at the appropriate level and it has to be addressed.

Mr. DiGiorgio said that he sent the Finance Committee minutes to the board members.

Report/Remarks by  
Board President:

None.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned the meeting by voice vote to executive session at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherie Ludy  
Board Secretary

CL:df



