

The combined meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Landis Administration Building Auditorium, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 6:05 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Medio, Mr. Sbrana, Ms. Spinelli, and Mr. Ulrich (via phone). Absent: None.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frangipani and Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: None.

Mr. Bordley 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, SNJ Today, the Press of Atlantic City, Nuestra Comunidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s):

Mr. Dan Russo, Vineland High School Football Coach, said on behalf of the Vineland High School Football Team and Red & Gray Gridiron Booster Club we would like to congratulate Dr. Gruccio on being named the 2018 Red & Gray Lifetime Achievement Award winner. He said the event to honor Dr. Gruccio will be held on August 2, 2018 at the Greenview Inn beginning with a golf tournament and followed by dinner. Dr. Gruccio was presented with a restored helmet for her office.

HIB: A motion was made by Mr. Fiocchi, seconded by Mr. Sbrana, to approve the HIB Report. All Members voted "yes."

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Fiocchi, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, the minutes were approved from June 6, 2018. All Members voted "yes."

Solicitor's Report: Mr. DeSanto said he has been asked to provide a summary of the process involving the naming or renaming of schools. He said Policy #7250 sets forth the process for the naming of schools and facilities. Mr. DeSanto said the policy defines school buildings and also what facilities are.

Mr. DeSanto said paragraph 2 of the policy provides the criteria and qualifications for the naming of a building or facility. He said a building or facility may be named to honor and memorialize the contribution and service of a school official, district employee, resident or former resident who has significantly contributed their time, effort and skills to any program, sport, activity, school facility or volunteer organization of this district or to the City of Vineland and or who has significantly contributed funds or other resources to any program, sport activity, school, facility or volunteer organization of this district or city. Mr. DeSanto said with respect to the naming of the building an individual must have passed away five years prior to the naming. He said the naming or renaming of a school can be initiated by a Board member, Superintendent or member of the public. The policy sets forth the process for the renaming of a school building, which is a different process than the naming of a school facility. Mr. DeSanto said if the suggestion is by the Superintendent, Board or public that process begins with the submission of that recommendation to the Board. He said the Board then decides whether or not to invoke the policy. Mr. DeSanto said you do not vote on the individual that the Superintendent recommends you vote to invoke the policy. He said if you decide to name or rename a school then the process begins with Mrs. Haley advertising for nominations. There is a 20 day period and an entire procedure set forth. Mr. DeSanto said it is a two-step process. This matter was brought up a couple months ago and the vote at that time was against the motion to invoke the process. He said the Board may renew that motion tonight. Mr. DeSanto said in his opinion a motion to invoke the process can be made by any Board member.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

Avery Malinowski, Vineland High School Student
Miss Malinowski spoke in support of renaming Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Sergeant Dominic Pilla.

Tony Suggs
Mr. Suggs spoke in support of renaming Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Sergeant Dominic Pilla.

Joe Testa
Mr. Testa spoke in support of renaming Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Sergeant Dominic Pilla.

Joe Griffies

Mr. Griffies spoke in support of renaming Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Sergeant Dominic Pilla.

Assemblyman Ryan Peters

Assemblyman Peters spoke in support of renaming Lincoln Avenue Middle School after Sergeant Dominic Pilla.

Bonnie Martin

Ms. Martin implored the Board to invoke the vote to rename Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Scott English

Mr. English discussed Policy #7250, which is the Naming of Buildings and Facilities. He discussed the vote that was taken in 2016 to name the new middle school. Mr. English said Mr. DeWinne, a former Board member, asked if the reason for naming the school at that time was to put the name on the blueprints. Mr. English said he asked that night if future Boards or a member of the public decides that they would like the Lincoln Avenue School named after someone is there a policy in place that can make that happen. He said that Mr. DeSanto clearly stated “yes” there are a number of scenarios whether it is recommended by a Board member or public member. Mr. English feels it may be time for another revision of this policy. He said in his opinion the renaming of the school requires a special meeting. Mr. English said the renaming of the school should not be about feelings. He said he did the homework when he was on the Board and knew this would come up again. Mr. English said the tough part is making the decision.

Mr. Medio left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Mr. Medio returned at 6:44 p.m.

Mr. Fiocchi left the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Mr. Fiocchi returned at 6:48 p.m.

Recommendations:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

PERSONNEL (1.1)

- 1.1 The Board approve the personnel items in accordance with the lists provided and on file with the Secretary of the Board.
- a. Retirements, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Employment, Transfers
 - b. Substitutes
 - c. Extracurricular Activities
 - d. Extracurricular Summer
 - e. Volunteers

Mr. Medio said he has to vote “no” on the employment due to the unknown funding from the state.

Mr. Jennings asked how many new hires there are. Mr. Bordley said 6 replacement hires. Mr. Jennings asked if these individuals understand that we are in a budget crisis. Dr. Gruccio said she does not know if they understand but they are critical positions and if we have to cut money this is not where she would begin cutting it. She believes we should start cutting things such as the press box before cutting a position that is directly involved with our children every day.

Dr. Gruccio welcomed Jarrod Headley the new Vice Principal at Vineland High School.

Mr. Headley thanked the Board for this great opportunity. He said that he was born and raised in Vineland and it is more than an honor to be able to work in the Vineland School District. Mr. Headley said he looks forward to the school year.

All Members voted “yes” except Mr. Medio who voted “yes on all items except new hires he voted “no.” (9-0-0)

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PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1-2.8)

2.1 The Board approve field trips and district travel.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

2.2 The Board approve the entry into a Dual Credit Articulation Agreement with Atlantic Cape Community College for the 2018-2019 school year.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

2.3 The Board approve the Board Secretary to enter into an affiliation agreement for the 2018-2019 school year for placement of students for field internship, student teaching, practicum, and observations with:

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

- Capella University
- Cumberland County College Clinical
- Fordham University
- Georgian Court University
- Grand Canyon University
- Rowan University
- Rutgers University
- Salus University
- Simmons College
- St. Joseph's University
- Stockton University
- The College of New Jersey
- Western Governor's University
- Wilmington University (Counsel)
- Wilmington University (Teacher)

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2.4 The Board approve authorizing the Board Secretary to enter into a partnership with the YMCA for the Achievement GAP Program.

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

2.5 The Board approve authorizing the Board Secretary to enter into a partnership with Complete Care Memorandum of Agreement for Student Health Solutions for 2018-2019 in a form acceptable by the Superintendent and Board Solicitor.

All Members voted "yes" except Ms. Spinelli who "abstained." (8-0-1)

2.6 The Board approve the second reading of the following Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations for adoption:

All Members voted "yes." (9-0-0)

Mandated Changes:

- Policy – P1550 Revised (M) – Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination
- Regulation – R1550 Revised (M) – Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination
- Policy – P2431 Revised (M) – Athletic Competition
- Regulation – R2431.2 Revised (M) – Medical Examination Prior to Participation
- Policy – P2431.8 New (M) – Varsity Letters for Interscholastic/Extra Activities
- Policy – P5350 Revised (M) – Student Suicide Prevention
- Regulation – R5350 Revised (M) Student Suicide
- Policy – P5533 Revised (M) – Student Smoking
- Policy – P5561 Revised (M) – Use of Physical Restraint
- Regulation – R5561 Revised (M) – Use of Physical Restraint
- Policy – P8462 Revised (M) – Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

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2.7 The Board approve to waive the time requirements for review according to Policy #0131 “Bylaws and Policies” and adopt the following Policy to be in place by September 1, 2018:

Policy P2431 Revised – Athletic Competition

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

2.8 The Board approve the bus evacuation drills completed in April as per the list provided and on file with the Board Secretary and in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:27-11.2.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (3.1)

3.1 The Board approve a JROTC initiative involving the landing and taking off of a NJ Army National Guard helicopter on September 20, 2018 with an alternate date of September 22, 2018 at Vineland High School.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

**Mr. Jennings asked for an explanation on this item.
 Dr. Gruccio said they visit with the students every year who are in our JROTC Program.**

FINANCE (4.1-4.13)

4.1 The Board approve budgetary transfers for General, School-Based and ECPA for May 2018.

All Members
 voted “yes.”
 (9-0-0)

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4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for May 2018.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.3 The Board approve the following revised established petty cash and change funds for the 2018-2019 fiscal year per the list provided and on file with the Board Secretary:

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

Administration – Petty Cash

4.4 The Board approve the acceptance of the following funding:

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
 October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019
 Dallago Impact Center\$17,765
 Sabater Elementary School\$44,165

4.5 The Board approve the renewal of the lease with Robins' Nest for 1350 S. W. Blvd., Unit #2 for one year under the terms of the current lease agreement with a 5% increase in rent, equivalent to \$2,500.47 per month for January 2019 through December 31, 2019 subject to the tenant's option to terminate upon a 90-daywritten notice to the Board.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 except Mr.
 Bordley and
 Mr. Fiocchi
 who
 "abstained."
 (7-0-2)

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4.6 The Board approve the following bid:

Lease Purchase Financing of \$782,300 from U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing & Finance, Inc. at a rate of 3.039% and a term of five years. This is to pay for the acquisition of school buses and vehicles pursuant to the terms of the Resolution of the Vineland Board of Education through a lease purchase transaction and authorizing execution of a lease purchase agreement and other related agreements and actions necessary to accomplish the transaction.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.7 The Board approve the acknowledgment that no bids were received on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. for Bid #24-18/19, lease of 519 N. West Avenue. The district will re-advertise for these services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.8 The Board approve the contract with Blackboard Inc. for the district's outcall service from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$16,949.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

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4.9 The Board approve a (year two) renewal for the following contract at the price of \$47,940.00 from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, with an option to renew for a one-year term, for a maximum of a three-year contract:

Online Literacy Services
 Newsela
 475 10th Ave., 4th Floor
 New York, NY 10018

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.10 The Board approve authorizing the Board Secretary to enter into a partnership with Inspira Health Care-Occupational Health Services with Dr. Balogen.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.11 The Board approve a professional service agreement with Dreyfuss Speech Services Inc. for Therapy Services in the amount of \$80.00 per hour for all speech language pathologists from July 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

4.12 The Board approve the tuition contract between the Vineland Board of Education and Cape May County Technical School for one student in the amount of \$1,943.80 per month from September 2018 to June 2019.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

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| ACOSTA | BORDEY | FIOCHEI | HOLMES | JENNINGS | MEDLO | SBRANA | SPINELLI | ULRICH |
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4.13 The Board approve the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:

- a. 2017-2018 Transportation Quoted Contracts
- b. 2017-2018 Transportation Addendum
- c. 2018-2019 ESY Quoted Contracts
- d. 2018-2019 ESY Transportation Addendum
- e. 2018-2019 Regular School Year Renewals

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

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

1. It is recommended by the Finance Committee that the Board approve the award of the following contracts for Alternate Counsel (RFP #11-18/19 for the term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019:

Alternate Counsel

- a. Capehart & Scatchard, P.A.

8000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300S

Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

Hourly Rate: Shareholder - \$170 Associate - \$165 Paralegal - \$70

- b. Frank DiDomenico

8 LaSalle Drive

Vineland, NJ 08360

- c. Grace Marmero & Associates, LLP

44 Euclid Street

Woodbury, NJ 08096

Hourly Rate: \$125.00

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Spinelli, seconded by Mr. Holmes, to approve the award of the following contracts for Alternate Counsel (RFP #11-18/19) for the term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019: Capehart & Scatchard, P.A., Frank DiDomenico and Grace Marmero & Associates, LLP. All Members voted “yes.”

2. It is recommended by Board Member, Eugene Medio, to discuss and vote to invoke the process of renaming Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Mr. DeSanto said the chair may entertain a motion to invoke Policy # 7250 and authorize the Board Secretary to advertise for nominations for the renaming of Lincoln Avenue Middle School.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, to invoke Policy #7250 and authorize the Board Secretary to advertise for nominations for the renaming of Lincoln Avenue Middle School. All members voted “yes” except Mr. Jennings who voted “no.”

Mr. Sbrana said this will be an important meeting and with vacations coming up he hopes that we can reach an agreement on a date where everyone is able to attend.

Mr. DeSanto reminded the Board that the policy requires a special meeting for consideration of the nominations. He said when the meeting is scheduled please make sure it is a special meeting and not part of the regular meeting.

Mr. Sbrana asked if a time limit is specified.

Mr. DeSanto said once the publication is made by Mrs. Haley there is a 20 day period to accept nominations. He said after the deadline no additional nominees are to be received from the floor at the special meeting.

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Mr. Holmes, seconded by Ms. Spinelli, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$15,266,210.67).

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

Public: Assemblyman Ryan Peters
Assemblyman Peters said he currently has a bill in the assembly that will name October 3rd Sergeant Domenic Pilla Day for all of New Jersey to honor his legacy and memory. He hopes that when it passes the Governor will sign this bill in front of the Sergeant Domenic Pilla School.

Elliott DeShields
Mr. DeShields thanked the Board for all their help this year with the senior prom. He said the Winter Track Program is no longer in existence and spoke in support of the program. Mr. DeShields suggested revisiting the Winter Track Program, which was a very successful program.

Ms. Spinelli asked when the Board voted on the Winter Track Program. Dr. Gruccio said the Athletic Director chose what to cut in the budget. Ms. Spinelli thinks that the Board needs to revisit this.

Mr. Medio asked if any other sports were cut. Mr. DeShields said middle school basketball and winter track.

Mr. Bordley asked how many students are involved in winter track. Mr. DeShields said 60 students. Mr. Bordley said he agrees with his fellow Board members that this needs to be discussed.

Scott Hubbard

Mr. Hubbard said he is the Assistant Winter/Spring Track Coach with Mr. DeShields. He said that he found out from a student that we were not having indoor track. Mr. Hubbard said if we do not have winter track it will put our students at a disadvantage.

Joe Griffies

Mr. Griffies thanked the Board for changing their vote tonight.

Terence Spencer

Mr. Spencer said he is a former teacher in the district and came out this evening to support his longtime friend Elliott DeShields and Coach Hubbard in regards to the Winter Track Team. He urged the Board to continue with the program.

Scott English

Mr. English said when he sees Board members looking like a deer in the headlights that is a bad sign. He urged the Board to continue practicing communication, collaboration and transparency. Mr. English said a couple meetings ago Ms. Spinelli had a great idea about having an Ad Hoc Committee for public relations and communications. He said he will be the first community member to volunteer for that committee. Mr. English said that Mr. Jennings brought up a very interesting point about how to go about revisiting a policy at the last Board meeting. He said Mr. Weaver will be retiring next July and he believes this position is the second most important position in the district. Mr. English said he knows that we have an outstanding in-house candidate and he does not think this is something that should be posted. He feels the right decision was made tonight to honor the policy.

Mr. Holmes left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Committee Reports: Mr. Jennings said at the Transportation Committee meeting they discussed what is going to take place here in the new building. He said construction is currently being done to open up a registration area. Mr. Jennings recommended that we post a video to YouTube in regards to registration and requests. He said they discussed whether or not to privatize the garage. Mr. Jennings said we are going to continue to do what we are doing because it appears to be saving us money.

Ms. Acosta said discussed at the Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting was the Cumberland County College Participation Agreement, which is a partnership with Bridgeton, Millville, Vineland and the Prosecutors Office that brings awareness to prevent youth violence. She said they also discussed internal and external course selection updates and increased accountability with summer curriculum updates.

Board Member

Remarks:

Mr. Medio said he wears Vineland athletic shirts to continuously support and reward success instead of rewarding failures the way we have been doing here the last several years. He said the comment that was made about Gittone Stadium brings to his mind the sports that were cut that Board members did not know about. Mr. Medio said when our money is cut will the Gittone Project which is a safety issue be cut.

Mr. Sbrana thanked all the members of the public who came out tonight and gave information to help us make a decision to move forward with the presentations for the school naming.

Mr. Jennings said his "no" decision tonight to invoke the process had nothing to do with any specific individual. He said it was about the policy and the process. Mr. Jennings said he served in the military and understands the dedication that goes along with that. He would like to see all of our veterans acknowledged and given an opportunity to be recognized. Mr. Jennings said he will stand behind the Board's decision.

Mr. Fiocchi said he would like to change his vote on 4.5 to "abstain."

Mr. Ulrich thanked everyone who came out tonight in support of renaming the school. He said money is being decreased and the political compromises have worked against us. Our funding is going to be reduced over a 7 year period. Mr. Ulrich said we are going to have no alternative but to look at all non-teaching positions to see if privatizing would be an option for us to save money. He said Dr. Gruccio does not like to hurt people she is one of the most caring individuals. He said to have false rumors spread about her and her motivations are certainly not true. Mr. Ulrich said we are going to have to make some very tough decisions sooner rather than later. He said that he has been a proponent of slowly raising the taxes because we are going to be faced with maximum tax increases over the next 7 years. He said the money tree is drying up and he will press for the RFP's and protecting, teaching and supporting them in any way that we can.

Ms. Acosta thanked all the members of the public who spoke tonight. She also thanked the track coaches for making the Board aware of an important issue tonight and hopes that it is something that can be discussed and rectified. Ms. Acosta said she is extremely concerned about the new school funding and potential cuts to our district. She believes that our citizens can make a great impact to the Assemblymen and Senators who will be looking at this matter closely. Ms. Acosta said we need to be advocates for our students.

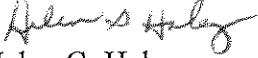
Dr. Gruccio publicly thanked Louis and Doris Zucca who made a donation towards the Gittone Project.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. Bordley said he is very disheartened to see a sports program with a large participation of students cut. He said the decision was made by the supervisors not the Board but he would like to work with the Board to try to rectify. Mr. Bordley said he is excited to hear the public comments on the naming of the new school.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,


Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt