

A Board Retreat of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 4:40 p.m., in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codisoti, Mr. Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel, Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor, and Ms. Jane Kershner, of the New Jersey School Boards Association. Absent: Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent.

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:

Mr. English welcomed and introduced Ms. Jane Kershner the Field Service Representative from the New Jersey School Board Association.

Ms. Kershner said the purpose of tonight's retreat is for Board Goal Setting 2016-2017 and the Superintendent's Evaluation. She said that she has the Board's self-evaluation results and has compiled the documents for the Superintendent's evaluation, which she will give to Mr. DeWinne. Ms. Kershner reviewed the procedures with the non-conflicted Board members. She distributed the Board Self Evaluation forms. The Board discussed the charts with Ms. Kershner and she explained the results.

Mr. Sbrana asked Ms. Kershner to review the responsibilities of a Board member. Ms. Kershner said Policy making. She said the Superintendent should never make the Board look stupid and vice versa because the public feeds off of that and television adds to it. Ms. Kershner said the Board needs a mechanism that allows them to discuss items, look unified and have adequate information to make decisions.

Ms. Kershner introduced the word "slaggart" which means "A person who makes themselves look better by insulting and belittling the achievements or problems of others in a derogatory way, at the same time usually not actually contributing anything of use themselves."

Ms. Kershner discussed the process of the Chief School Administrator's (CSA) Evaluation and said that she will give the evaluations to Mr. DeWinne. She said the packet describes the next steps of the evaluation and the Board can schedule an executive session meeting to receive and review the results. Mr. DeWinne can choose a person to write a narrative on the majority of the opinions and then send it to the non-conflicted members. The final copy gets sent to the Superintendent a few days before her conference and she should be "Riced" prior to that meeting. Ms. Kershner said the Board can refer to the CSA Evaluation packet for samples and instructions. She said that Dr. Gruccio can attach a statement to the evaluation no more than 10 days after the summary conference.

Mr. Sbrana departed the retreat at 6:03 p.m.

The six non-conflicted members are Mr. DeWinne, Ms. Rios, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Bordley, Mr. Pagano and Mr. Sbrana.

Ms. Kershner said the evaluation is a product of the majority. She recommended that the Board have these types of sessions more frequently and could be held prior to a Board meeting.

Dr. Rossi departed the retreat at 6:09 p.m.

Ms. Kershner said that there should be no more than 3 district goals per year and she read the goals from last year.

Ms. Codispoti and Mr. Bordley discussed how it was being a new Board member and how it could be better if there was training immediately after the election instead of in January.

Ms. Acosta discussed the other training session possibilities.

Mr. Bordley said that he thinks this forum is more meaningful since it is specific to our district. Ms. Kershner said she would be happy to come back and have another session. Mr. English said it is beneficial to have these sessions once a season. Ms. Kershner said the more you get together to talk, the better it will be. Mr. Jennings agreed with the idea of meeting once a quarter. Mr. DeWinne recommended that the Board set a goal to have this type of meeting once a quarter. Dr. Gruccio said we could have one in November. Mr. DeWinne said maybe we can invite the newly elected Board members to that meeting.

The idea of a Parent and Arts Academy was discussed. Dr. Gruccio described what a true academy is and said that we are really providing more than a true academy would. Mr. Bordley said it is about marketing. Mr. Frangipani said that academies have criteria to get in.

Ms. Codispoti departed at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Frangipani said that academies keep kids coming to school. Discussion followed about STEM and STEAM. Dr. Gruccio said she wanted Mr. Frey, who was not present tonight, involved in these conversations as well.

Ms. Acosta informed the Board that she will not be attending the August 10th Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley, CPA
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

