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, August 8, 2018 at 5:33 p.m., pursuant to notice with Ms. Acosta presiding and the following members present: Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Sbrana, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Holmes was absent the entire meeting, Mr. Medio and Ms. Spinelli arrived at 5:34 p.m. and Mr. Bordley arrived at 5:55 p.m. during executive session.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frangipani and Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Ms. Diaz, Personnel Assistant, Mr. DeSanto, Solicitor, press and public. Absent: Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel.

Ms. Acosta 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: 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 pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If contract negotiation the nature of the contract and interested party is Oak & Main property. Any matter 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 Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the resolution was passed. All Members voted “yes.”

The Board recessed to executive session at 5:36 p.m.

The combined meeting started at 6:04 p.m.
Special Presentation(s):

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Joseph Callavini, Transportation Coordinator, to honor Mr. Dean Charleson for his service as a bus driver.

Mr. Callavini said tonight it is his duty, honor and pleasure to celebrate the distinguished 55 year career of Dean Charleson, School Bus Driver, for the Vineland Board of Education. He said Mr. Charleson has seen and been part of a lot of change in the district. Mr. Callavini said Mr. Charleson has driven over 500,000 miles and has never had an at fault accident in his career. He thanked Mr. Charleson for his years of service and said it has truly been a pleasure. Mr. Charleson was presented a small token of appreciation for his many years of service.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. John Frangipani, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Anti-Bullying Coordinator, to present the 2017-2018 HIB Report.

Mr. Frangipani said twice a year an update has to be given on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB). He said a HIB comes in many forms and may be written, verbal, or electronic communication and can happen in school or off grounds. Mr. Frangipani said a HIB has to be motivated by a characteristic, which could be actual or perceived. He said some of the HIB characteristics are race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or any distinguishing characteristic. Mr. Frangipani said a HIB has to have a physical or emotional effect on a student and be a disruption to the student’s learning process. He reviewed the data and HIB reporting for year to date. Mr. Frangipani discussed the changes made to the HIB Law on July 1st.

Dr. Gruccio introduced Dr. Dina Elliott, Superintendent of the Cumberland County Technical Center, to discuss some of the initiatives at the Cumberland County Technical Center.

Dr. Elliott presented an informational overview of vocational school topics.
Mr. Sbrana said this conversation with the Cumberland County Technical Center began with a member of the public asking questions about how the CC Tech was funded in regards to our revenue. He thinks this is the information that we are looking for. Mrs. Haley said as Dr. Elliott has stated each year as we are working on the budget we receive a notice from Gene Mercoli Business Administrator at the CC Tech that provides us with the tuition rates, which is what we budget for. She said certified tuition rates do not come out for two years. Mrs. Haley said the first certified tuition rate came out the beginning of 2018, which would be compared to the tuition we were told for 2016. She said when we compare the numbers we actually would owe CC Tech money. Mrs. Haley said most of that is because of the shared time students. She said we are billed $1,000 per student but the actual cost is over $2,500 per student. Mrs. Haley said as time passes that will flip in the other direction. She said as the number of shared time students’ decrease and the other students’ increase it will turn in the other direction. Mrs. Haley said the contract is a standard contract for all sending districts and they can choose to look at the difference and give it all back or a percentage.

Mr. Sbrana asked what would be the timeline and is there any way to quantify what this would be. Mrs. Haley said when she ran the 2016 numbers it comes to about $96,000 that we would owe the CC Tech and if you go by their contract it would be 50% of that amount. She did not run any numbers for 2017 or 2018 because we do not have the certified rates yet.

Mr. Ulrich asked if our special education funding is Title funds. Mrs. Haley said some of it is but we do receive special education aid through the state aid also. Mr. Ulrich asked where the tuition for special education is taken out of. Mrs. Haley said it comes out of our general budget. Mr. Ulrich asked why it does not come out of the special education grant. Mrs. Haley said because the IDEA Grant has different categories and we allocate a lot of tuition to that but there are other positions and programs that are in that grant. She said we try to put as much tuition into that grant as possible because when you put salaries into that grant you have to give back the FICA and Medicare to the state. Mrs. Godlewski, Director of Special Education, said 50% of the IDEA budget goes to tuition.
Mrs. Godlewski said out of the IDEA Grant we also pay for aide and secretarial salaries, ESY Program, student support services, independent evaluations for students, summer testing, and some substitutes. She said the schools each have a school based categorical but the special education department does not have a district budget. Mrs. Godlewski said all of the special education departments needs come out of the IDEA Grant.

Mrs. Haley said we do not put salaries in that grant that are part of TPAF (Teachers’ Pensions and Annuity Fund) because we would have to reimburse the state for the FICA and Medicare. She said we only put PERS (Public Employees’ Retirement System) salaries in the grant.

Mr. Ulrich asked if we have considered doing a cost analysis on what would be more efficient putting additional money in to cover the CC Tech special education students or looking at hiring a consulting firm for services that we currently do in-house.

Mrs. Haley said as Dr. Elliott stated we do get transportation aid, which covers transportation to their school. She said that she knows Mr. Callavini has billed the CC Tech for activity bus runs which was about $13,000.

Dr. Gruccio asked Mrs. Godlewski how many special education students attend the CC Tech. Mrs. Godlewski said there are two programs at CC Tech. She said one is Strive, which is run like an approved private school for the disabled and we currently have 5 students attending. The other program is the full-time students who go into the school areas that happen to have IEP’s and she is not sure of the number of students. Mrs. Haley said she calculated 8 special education students attending.

Dr. Gruccio asked Dr. Elliott to explain to the Board the court’s decision regarding athletics.

Dr. Elliott explained the court decision to the Board.

Mr. Sbrana asked how the shared time tuition amount is calculated. Mrs. Haley said the state issues a certified tuition letter, which they send to the vocational schools. She said the state divides the regular tuition by two to calculate the shared time.
Mr. Medio asked how many senior class students will be at the CC Tech next year. Dr. Elliott said we should have close to 1,100 students. Mr. Medio asked why you would not have sports. Dr. Elliott explained that there are a variety of different reasons. Mr. Medio said when circumstances change and there is a ninth, tenth and eleventh grade class the Board will have to look at changing the policy if the students are coming here. He said the CC Tech will have to pay the same percentage that it is costing us for our students to participate.

Mr. Ulrich said he would like to pay only what we are obligated to pay by state law. He would like to see the documents from the Commissioner for the final order on the sports situation and also the certified tuition rates for full-time students. Mrs. Haley said she has the certified letter and state spreadsheet that she will share with everyone.

HIB: No discussion.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, the minutes were approved from July 11, 2018. All Members voted “yes.”

Solicitor’s Report: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Recommendations:
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

PERSONNEL (1.1-1.3)

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. Students
   c. Substitutes
   d. Extracurricular Activities
   e. Extracurricular Summer
   f. Volunteers
   g. Information Only

Mr. Medio asked if we have any data that shows that we need to fill all these positions. Dr. Gruccio said the positions on the agenda are replacements for people who have left and we do need them. Mr. Medio asked if we can get by with less people in positions. Dr. Gruccio said it depends on what the positions are. She said the administrative positions are needed along with nurses and guidance. She said we are not hiring anyone who we do not need. Mr. Medio feels we should look at all the positions to see what we have to do. Dr. Gruccio assured Mr. Medio that before we put any position forward it is discussed thoroughly. She said Dr. Rossi has worked very hard in making sure that we only fill necessary positions.

Mr. Jennings recognized Mr. Anthony Galzerano on his retirement as a librarian for 33 years.

Mr. Jennings thanked everyone who graciously accepted their reassignments due to the redistricting.
1.2 The Board approve a memorandum to be issued to non-union support staff employees known as the BAE or Board Approved Exempt personnel, retroactive to July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. The memorandum is not a contract and serves to outline basic conditions of employment with specific references to the terms of and conditions of employment contained in the VEA contract for clerical personnel.

Mr. Ulrich asked how the 2.5% increase was derived. Dr. Gruccio said this was discussed with Dr. Rossi and the Finance Committee. She said the people in this group are the Central Administration secretaries that do not fall into any category. Dr. Gruccio said they usually get what the VEA receives but they were willing to put this on at a lower rate. Mr. Ulrich said there are steps involved with VEA and higher levels of education. He does not feel it is fair to compare this Memorandum to a VEA Contract. Mr. Ulrich said this should be compared to what we are giving UAW and other workers. Dr. Gruccio said the VEA has secretaries in their union except for these secretaries who work at a higher position then the secretaries in the VEA. Mr. Ulrich said since the VEA has not settled it would make sense to wait until they are settled to see what their secretaries are getting under the collective bargaining agreement. Dr. Gruccio said she would be happy to do that but it may cost us more money. Mr. Bordlely said he can almost assure that the VEA will not settle for less than 2.5%. Mr. Jennings said point of order. He said we are currently in open negotiations with the VEA and we really just need to vote on this issue and not discuss negotiations.
A motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, seconded by Mr. Medio, to pull item 1.2 from the agenda until the VEA Contract is settled. All Members voted “yes” except for Mr. Fiocchi, Ms. Spinelli, Ms. Acosta and Mr. Bordley who voted “no.” The motion did not pass.

Mr. Jennings said he has a question that may change his vote.

Mr. DeSanto said *Roberts Rules of Order* provide that a person may change their vote during the night of the meeting only.

Mr. Jennings said if this is pulled and later on it carries is their retro pay involved. Dr. Grucco said it would be retro to July 1st. Mr. Jennings said he will stay with his vote.

1.3 The Board approve contracts for the New Jersey Youth Corps Grant funded staff for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 whose names are on file in the Personnel Department.

**PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS (2.1-2.3)**

2.1 The Board approve field trips and VHS Softball Training 2019.
2.2 The Board approve authorizing the Board Secretary to enter into partnership with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties.

2.3 The Board approve the second reading of the following Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations for adoption:
Mandated Changes
Policy 5512
Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying – revised

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (3.1)

3.1 The Board approve the donation of two Veterans Memorial School trailers to the City of Vineland to be used for youth sports in accordance with Board Policy #7300 “Disposition of Property”.

FINANCE (4.1-4.14)

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

4.2 The Board approve the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for June 2018.
4.3 The Board approve the submission of FY19 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Education from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of $103,757.

4.4 The Board approve the acceptance of funding for FY19 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Education from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 in the amount of $103,757.

4.5 The Board approve the contract for in-school nursing services with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. in the amount of $49 per hour for a RN and $39 per hour for a LPN from June 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

4.6 The Board approve the contract for in-school one-on-one-nursing services with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. in the amount of $49 per hour for a RN and $39 per hour for a LPN from June 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

4.7 The Board approve the (year three) renewal for the following contract at the current contract price for the term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019:
- Mental Health Services
- Robins’ Nest
- 42 S. Delsea Drive
- Vineland, NJ 08028
4.8 The Board approve the following Non-Public Aid for the 2018-2019 school year:
1. Textbook Aid in the amount of ........ $23,603.00
2. Technology Aid in the amount of ......$15,912.00
3. Security Aid in the amount of ..........$33,675.00
4. Nursing Aid in the amount of ..........$43,553.00

4.9 The Board approve (year four) Addendum #3 with Sodexo Management, Inc. for Food Service Management from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

4.10 The Board approve a resolution which awards contracts to the childcare providers in accordance with the list on file with the Board Secretary for the 2018-2019 school year in accordance with a form of contract approved by the Department of Education.
4.11 The Board approve the acknowledgment that no bids were received on Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. for Bid #26-18/19 lease of 519 N. West Avenue.

Mr. Medio asked what is located at 519 N. West Avenue. Mrs. Haley said Leuchter School.

Mr. Jennings said this is a fantastic building in great shape.

4.12 The Board approve the bus advertisement renewal of 7 ads for Century Savings Bank for one year from August 29, 2018 to August 29, 2019 in the amount of $2,538.90.

Mr. Jennings thanked Century Savings for both advertisements.

4.13 The Board approve the gym wall ad for Century Savings Bank to be located in the gym at the VHS North – Dennis Tanner Building from August 28, 2018 to August 29, 2019 in the amount of $1,300.00 with two one-year renewals.
4.14 The Board approve the following Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation initiatives:

   a. 2018-2019 ESY Quoted Contracts
   b. 2018-2019 ESY Transportation Addendum
   c. 2017-2018 Transportation Addendum
B. Proposed for review or discussion or adoption by Board Members:

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Medio, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, requesting for Central Office to compile a 2-year outlook on district budgeting. All Members voted "yes."

Mr. Medio said this is something that should have been done a long time ago. He said we all know that we are getting our funding cut and have a deficit built into the budget every year. Mr. Medio said instead of continuously looking at and discussing the budget from October to present, we should know what the plans are and what we are looking at in the future as far as where we are going to make cuts or adjustments.

Mr. Ulrich agrees that we need to forecast out and is totally on board with what Mr. Medio is requesting. He said this is going to take some time to compile and we have to be reasonable in the time request. Mr. Ulrich said these problems are not going away so it is better that we face them knowing the future is not great.

Mr. Ulrich requested a Board vote for the next meeting to instruct the Superintendent to do an RFP for Sodexo to take over all food services.

Dr. Gruccio said we know that we are in a bad budget situation and we have it in the back of our mind with every decision that we make. She said things constantly change and we always work on things looking ahead at the future year. Dr. Gruccio said we will provide the Board with a list of some suggestions however, things constantly change so nothing will be definite. She said our first priority is the children and we always try to do the very best we can for them. Dr. Gruccio said we will do the best we can to provide a list to the Board.

Mr. Ulrich said he would not support anything that would affect the classroom environment such as privatizing teacher aides. He thinks the aides directly impact student education and achievement. Mr. Ulrich said he is sure that he has alarmed employees and made some of his secretarial friends mad at him but in the end if they are really his friends they will understand that friendship and business are two separate things. Mr. Ulrich said time for talk is over and we have to take definitive actions to protect our classrooms, teachers, students and aides that directly support instruction.
Ms. Acosta said she is in agreement with Mr. Ulrich however, she is a firm believer that the speech, physical, and occupational therapists are not something she would consider privatizing because it would negatively affect our students.

Ms. Acosta asked if there has been any changes to the School Choice cap. Dr. Gruccio said no. Ms. Acosta feels increasing the number of students we can receive from School Choice would be beneficial to us.

Approval of Bills:
Upon motion by Mr. Fiocchi, seconded by Mr. Jennings, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” ($9,557,300.51).

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

Public:
Elliott DeShields
Mr. DeShields asked if a decision has been made on winter track.

Mr. Robbins, Athletic Director, discussed how the termination of the winter track program came about. He said they discussed coming up with a hybrid of winter track or having less meets and contests. Mr. Robbins said on July 25th he received an email about the additional cuts from the state and we were asked to cut a few more positions. He said that he met with the coaches on June 18th.

Mr. DeShields said that he appreciated Mr. Robbins coming out. He said he has to fight for the students because they will not have the opportunity to see what they would have accomplished in the winter track program.

Committee Reports:
Mr. Jennings said discussed at the July 26th Transportation Committee meeting was the succession plan for the department due to John Morris retiring.

Board Member
Remarks:
Mr. Ulrich requested an update on how the transitions are going with Johnstone and Rossi Schools. He thanked Mr. DeShields for his comments.
Mr. Medio requested for Dr. Gruccio to contact him to address the special education funding.

Mr. Sbrana congratulated Mr. Charleson on his extraordinary record and the retirees for all their service. He said he remembers his first year on the job Mrs. Sue Cicchini was one of the most welcoming and supportive colleagues who was always willing to help with a smile. Mr. Sbrana hopes Mrs. Cicchini enjoys many years of good health and happiness in her retirement. He thanked all the bus and gym wall advertisers. Mr. Sbrana said he believes we should explore every opportunity available to raise revenue. He said that he hopes our staff enjoys the last few weeks of their vacation and he looks forward to another safe, successful school opening.

Mr. Jennings said he now believes that not having class rank will be best for our students. He said it would allow them to be able to choose programs that they would like to be in. Mr. Jennings said in his heart he believes that this is the right way to go for our students.

Ms. Acosta wished the best of luck to the retirees and thanked them for their service. She asked Mr. DeSanto if it were possible to start a GoFundMe page for winter track. Ms. Acosta believes that as a community we can raise the money.

Dr. Gruccio said we need $25,000 for the winter track program.

Mr. DeSanto said PTO’s and booster clubs can raise money in a number of ways including GoFundMe. He said Mrs. Haley would need to consult with the County Superintendent or Mr. Knight, the County Business Administrator in regards to this.

Ms. Acosta said maybe this could be sponsored by the Vineland Education Foundation, which is a non-profit organization. She said this could possibly be advertised on our district website.

Mr. Medio asked Mrs. Haley how much our surplus is. Mrs. Haley said we need to wait for the final calculation from the auditor before we determine what our surplus is. She said we have about a 2.7 million dollars in surplus. Mr. Medio said no one would notice if the $25,000 for winter track was taken from the surplus. Mrs. Haley said in the past we have used the surplus to help close the shortfall for the next year.
Dr. Gruccio said last night at National Night Out our district was recognized by the police for supporting community events and for working closely with the police department for the betterment of our students and community.

Mr. Ulrich read a card from a parent to a teacher in regards to the impact that teachers, aides and coaches make each year.

Mr. Bordley said Mr. Charleson retired after 55 years and he is appreciative of his service and others like him. He echoed Mr. DeShields comments that our sports programs give back to our students and provide them something outside of the classroom. Mr. Bordley said no one on this Board wants to cut sports programs but at this point in time he cannot say it is going to work. He said the Board is doing everything in their power to try to keep what we have and pay for it without putting our district in a deeper hole. Mr. Bordley said it is uplifting to see the students putting in the hard work and practicing at the school. He hopes everyone enjoys the few weeks left before the start of school.

Ms. Acosta reminded the parents to make sure their children complete their summer reading. She said questions and assistance can be done online through Summer Reading Google Classroom.

A motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Fiocchi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt