

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, August 12, 2015 at 6:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. English presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, Mr. Pagano and Ms. Rios. Absent: Mr. DeWinne

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

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, Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Resolution: None.

Special

Presentation (s): Dr. Gruccio introduced Mr. Joe Camardo, Principal of Barse Elementary School, to give a presentation on the New Jersey Youth Corp Program.

Mr. Camardo said the the NJ Youth Corp Program is an all year program that services students who have dropped out of school. The students are between the ages of 16 and 25. He explained that it is a second chance program where students have an opportunity to work towards their GED. Mr. Camardo said the NJ Youth Corp Program is a grant funded program through the NJ Department of Labor.

Mr. English thanked Mr. Camardo for his dedication to the program. Mr. English asked if we draw students from all of Cumberland County not just Vineland. Mr. Camardo said absolutely. Mr. English asked if community service is something our youth corp students can be involved in. Mr. Camardo said yes we have done some science kit work in the past and worked the after school program at Sabater School.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if the program goes as high as 25 years old. Mr. Camardo said 24 to be exact. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if any of the community service work is labor intensive. Mr. Camardo said most of it is labor intensive but we do clerical as well.

Ms. Morello thinks this is a great program that offers students who are struggling a way to get themselves together to go in the right direction. She thanked Mr. Camardo and the people in the program for all the hard work that they do.

Mr. English asked if there was a cap in this program. Mr. Camardo said we have to minimally service 60 students so there is not a cap.

Dr. Guccio introduced Ms. Lauren DeBello and Ms. Nancy Hollenweger to honor the students who worked on the Vineland art book.

Ms. DeBello said tonight we are pleased to introduce the students who worked diligently in completing the Vineland art book. She said the artists were provided with very basic pictures and utilized their creativity to develop beautiful illustrations for the book. Ms. DeBello thanked and recognized the students who contributed to the Vineland book.

Dr. Guccio thanked the students who were present tonight and said we will make sure that the students who could not attend tonight's meeting receive their certificate and a copy of the book.

Ms. Hollenweger thanked all the students for doing such a phenomenal job.

Dr. Guccio introduced Mayor Bermudez.

Mayor Bermudez said he is proud tonight and congratulated all the students who put the book together. He also thanked Dr. Guccio, Mr. English and all the Board members for having him tonight.

Ms. Morello asked if all the students could sign a book and have it in the display area. Dr. Guccio said yes we will do that.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. DiGiorgio, the minutes were approved from May 6, 2015, May 13, 2015, June 3, 2015, June 10, 2015, June 15, 2015. All Members voted "yes" except Ms. Codispoti who voted "yes" on all minutes but "abstained" on June 3, 2015, Mr. DiGiorgio who voted "yes" on all minutes but "abstained" on the one he missed and Ms. Rios who voted "yes" on all minutes but abstained on June 15, 2015.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. DeSanto said in connection with the Board's approval of the fee schedule for facilities the only change you will be voting on is the amendment to the schedule not the entire schedule. He said there will be a couple Board members who will need to abstain on it.

Public Comment on
Agenda Items:

John Casadia

Mr. Casadia said he understands that the Board has implemented a new rental policy. He wanted to know the criteria that the Board used for the change in item 2.6 "Revised Fee Schedule for Use of School Facilities" that is on the agenda.

Mrs. Haley read the revision to 2.6 "In consideration for services provided to the Vineland School District by the Vineland Fire Department and the Vineland Emergency Medical Service, the Vineland Fire Department and the Vineland Emergency Medical Service are exempt from facilities fees and personnel charges related to any use of District facilities." She said on July 8th we implemented a fee schedule.

Mr. Casadia said these are great organizations and are providing a service. He asked if the people who provide these services are paid by the Board of Education. Dr. Gruccio said they are paid for the job that they do but they volunteer their time to do things for our district that they are not paid for.

Mr. DeSanto said this is the provision for public comments on agenda items. He said you are straying from the procedure when you engage in a question answering session. Mr. DeSanto said historically the speaker is entitled to the information and is referred to the appropriate administration, which is generally the Superintendent. Mr. DeSanto said in this case it would be Mrs. Haley and himself. He said he would be more than happy to meet with Mr. Casadia along with Mrs. Haley to answer any questions regarding the policy change.

Mr. Casadia said he is hoping that other organizations, that provide a service, would be given the same consideration.

Mr. English asked if the police are listed on the revision. Mrs. Haley said they should be on there.

Mr. DeSanto said it is his understanding that if police or fire are at a football game they may very well be on duty but could be deployed elsewhere. He said we do not have to pay security personnel when the police are at an event. Mr. DeSanto said it is a situation where service is being provided and savings are made.

Mrs. Haley said there was another paragraph in the revision which is “In consideration for services provided to the Vineland School District by the Vineland Police Department, the Vineland Police Department and the Vineland Police Athletic League are exempt from facilities fee and personnel charges related to any use of District facilities.”

Ms. Morello asked if notifications went out to people who have used facilities in the past. Dr. Gruccio said the notifications will be sent out tomorrow and Mr. Sbrana will advertise it through our media.

Recommendations:

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

Approval of Bills: Upon motion by Ms. Morello, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the bills were approved and warrants issued for same. All Members voted “yes” (\$7,203,866.25).

Mr. English asked about the Grainger Company payment. Mrs. Haley said they are for two air compressors purchased for the Almond Road Preschool.

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

Public: Lou Geri
Mr. Geri expressed his concern that the lights at Petway School are not in sync with the time change.

Board Member
Remarks: Mr. DiGiorgio wished the students a healthy and happy return in September.

Ms. Acosta echoed the sentiments made by Mr. DiGiorgio and hopes all the students are doing their summer reading.

Mr. Jennings said he is excited about the two volunteer hires for football. He said if any parent has the opportunity to see the planetarium do not pass it up it is amazing. Mr. Jennings thanked the personnel who handled the Special Olympics and also grant writers for grant submissions.

Ms. Morello said she hopes some of the things that were discussed last week and tonight will get addressed quickly. She hopes all the children are having a good time and that we have a great year. Ms. Morello wished everyone a safe and happy start to the school year.

Ms. Codispoti thanked Mr. Camardo and his staff for everything they have done. She congratulated the students and staff who worked on the Vineland art book for a job well done. Ms. Codispoti wished the students and staff a great year.

Ms. Rios thanked everyone who was involved in the Vineland art book process. She also thanked Dr. Guccio for bringing the idea to Vineland.

Dr. Guccio thanked everyone involved in helping the Vineland book come to fruition. She said that Ms. Morello has mentioned several times about more of our schools getting involved with the Behavior Support Program. Dr. Guccio said we are trying to make sure that every school is involved. She said Rutgers is offering three of our schools a program called School Climate Transformation Program, which is similar to the Behavior Support Program. Dr. Guccio said district wide we are moving forward. She said that she is excited to see that we are finally getting sidewalks at Wallace School. Dr. Guccio thanked Ms. Peggy Nicolosi and Mr. Wayne Knight from the Cumberland County Office of Education for being instrumental with the charter school waiver so we do not have to pay the in lieu of transportation reimbursements, which saved the district \$207,466. She said that she is happy to report that we have shown improvement in the QSAC results. Dr. Guccio said Mr. Frey and his supervisory staff do a phenomenal job with our curriculum, which is top notch and meets all the standards. She said with fiscal management we went from 72% to 90%, which is outstanding. Dr. Guccio said in Governance we went from 42% to 100%, which is a wonderful tribute to the Board. She thanked Mr. Camardo and the supervisors. Dr. Guccio hopes everyone has a productive and wonderful school year.

Report/Remarks by
Board President:

Mr. English said the communication, collaboration and transparency piece is getting better. He said we are all up here for the taxpayers and students. Mr. English said we are a demanding Board but it is for the best of the students and tax payers. He said we will be dealing with a very significant shortfall very soon and this Board is going to be losing some experienced Board members, who have taught him a lot about the budget process. Mr. English said the number one thing that we are here for is the education of our students and we need to hear from the people on how we can save as many things as possible. He said we all believe that every job is important. Mr. English encouraged everyone to stop listening to the rumors and be part of the process publicly.

Mr. English said there are a lot of transitions happening this school year and he believes that change is good. He wished the students and staff the best of luck. Mr. English thanked the staff for putting in the effort that is needed to get the students where they need to be and making Vineland a great place.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Morello, seconded by Mr. Jennings, to adjourn the meeting by voice vote at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt

