

An open work session of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held in the Board Room, 625 Plum Street, Vineland, New Jersey, Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 7:02 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Medio presiding and the following members present: Mr. Baruffi, Mr. DeWinne, Mr. DiGiorgio, Mr. English, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Morello, and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Ms. Rios

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

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.

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 matter which, by express provision of Federal law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public. Provision relied upon is HIB complaint against teaching staff member. 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 the contract is UAW 2327 – 2013-2016 MOA. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may be a party. If contract negation the nature of the contract and interested party is Facilities Rental Agreement with Vineland Basketball Association. 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. DiGiorgio, seconded by Ms. Morello, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentations: None.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB Report), Suspension Report, Cunningham Alternative School Report/Average Daily Attendance – None.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: None.

Public Comments

on Agenda Items: None.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

Personnel Items – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel – a. Field Trips, b. District Travel, c. Baseball Spring Training 2015, d. Crew Training Trip 2015** – No discussion.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

3.1 **Temporary Facilities for 2014-2015 – a. Winslow School TCU, b. Landis School Temp Classroom** - Ms. Morello asked why these applications are marked as an initial applications if we have been using these facilities every year. She requested for the monthly duties calendar to be used so we can be timely with these applications. Dr. Gruccio said this came from the maintenance department because two applications were missing per Mr. Knight the County Business Administrator. She said we will look into the calendar and hopefully this will not happen again.

Mr. English asked if we already submitted other facility approvals. Mr. Weaver said correct.

Ms. Morello asked how Mr. Knight found these temporary facilities. Mr. Weaver explained through the annual inspection.

4. **FINANCE**

4.1 Budgetary Transfers – No discussion.

4.2 Placement of Special Education Students – No discussion.

4.3 Acceptance of Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant – Ms. Morello asked if Landis School is the only school that participates in this grant. Dr. Guccio responded yes. Ms. Morello asked if there is a limit as to how many schools can participate in this grant. Dr. Guccio said she does not believe so. Ms. Morello asked if any other schools in the districts have applied for this grant. Dr. Guccio said she does not know but will find out.

Mr. DeWinne asked what takes place at Landis School from July 1 to August 21st. Dr. Guccio said they run an after school program, tutoring, and homework program. She said they also have a summer program 4 days a week.

4.4 Submission of Family Friendly Center Grant – Ms. Morello asked how many years in a row did the district have this grant. Dr. Guccio said she does not know. Ms. Morello asked if this is the only school in the district that applies for this grant. Dr. Guccio responded yes. Ms. Morello said maybe in the Curriculum meeting it could be discussed to find a way to peak some interest in applying for these grants. She thanked Ms. Mercado for her work on the Family Friendly Grant along with the people who applied for the 21st Century grant for all their work.

4.5 Acceptance of Funding for General Mills Grant – No discussion.

4.6 Childcare Provider Contracts- Mr. English asked if the contracts reflect the total students. Dr. Guccio said yes.

Mr. DeWinne asked what determines the cost per student. Mrs. Haley said she would ask Mr. Hart and get back to him. Mrs. Morello explained the variables involved in the contract amounts. Mr. DeWinne asked what our total ECPA budget is. Mrs. Haley said around \$18,000,000.

Mr. English asked where the money goes that is left over at the end of the year. Mrs. Haley said the money is the providers.

Mr. DiGiorgio requested to see the cost and slots on the district provider centers. Mrs. Haley said sure.

2. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR REGULAR AGENDA: Ad Hoc Committee for Middle School 2

Mr. Medio said that he will be appointing an Ad Hoc committee to look at a plan for Middle School #2 next week.

Ms. Morello said QSAC was on last week's agenda and was not discussed. She asked why it was not on tonight's agenda. Dr. Gruccio said it was just an opportunity to share what we received from the state and we now have until November to put a corrective action plan in place. Mr. Medio asked about the presentation. Dr. Gruccio said there is no presentation yet. Mr. Medio said when he was first elected to the Board QSAC was presented to the Board in a public hearing. Dr. Gruccio said the letter she received did not state that had to be done. Ms. Morello wanted it on record that we did better than the county average. She said since we had about 30 seconds to get everything together for the budget process she is curious when the committees were supposed to meet and discuss a plan for the budgetary process. Ms. Morello said in discussion with people from the executive superintendent's office we were led to believe that we were performing very poorly. She said when she looked at the Board and County's score she thought they were talking about something else because we are right there with everyone else in the county. Ms. Morello said if we are going to have a committee system then she respectfully requests for the Superintendent to follow the committee system and have things go to committee before being moved forward for recommendation. She is taking this very seriously from this point forward because she does not like being taken to the woodshed by the QSAC folks for something that is outside of her control.

Review of Bills incurred for July 2014: No discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Mr. DeWinne said at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting Mr. Weaver provided a list of things that were targeted for repairing or improving. He said we discussed some minor issues and our capital reserve fund.

Mr. DeWinne said at the Finance Committee meeting they discussed reviewing the ECPA budget in late September to understand it better. He said the committee would like to start reviewing the district budget in October. Mr. DeWinne said we should have a lot of the costs on salaries and benefits. He said Mr. Weaver has a good idea on what we spend on utilities. Mr. DeWinne said we should have a good idea on a big piece of the budget early and the unknown is how much aid we are going to get.

Mr. DeWinne said by meeting as a committee and putting a plan in place we want to look at the budget to hopefully come up with solutions before the timelines we face in March and April. He said the Finance Committee also discussed some of the tasks and duties that Mrs. Haley's office oversees to come up with solutions in a short term process to move paperwork a little faster.

Mr. Ulrich said since the early childhood budget is controlled by the state the Board does not have too much of a say in that budget. Mr. DeWinne said that is correct but we just want to understand what the details are a little better.

Mr. English asked if the Almond Road facility was discussed at the committee meeting. Mr. DeWinne said yes we discussed reaching out to someone in the state on what the plan was going forward. Mr. Medio said any discussion in regards to Almond Road is a closed session item because it involves negotiation of a contract and our position in the negotiations.

Ms. Morello said at the Personnel & Policy Committee meeting Dr. Rossi presented some information on Civil Service and explanations on Insight and the Security Guard Company. She said they also discussed the process for an interim business administrator, the assistant superintendent position and open positions.

Mr. Ulrich asked Mr. DeSanto if a vote can be changed on an item that was approved last week. Mr. DeSanto said no a vote change has to be made at the time of the session unless there was a conflict that would disqualify you from voting. Mr. Ulrich said he had second-thoughts on voting yes on the awarding of the Insight Workforce Solutions Contract [U.S. Securities Associates, Inc.], which is a contract that provides long-term substitutes to fill security positions. Mr. Rossi said the district is facing a potential five million dollar deficit for the 2015-2016 school year and we cannot do business the way we have been doing it. Mr. Ulrich said he understands the purpose behind it but is worried about the employees, how this is going to work, and the quality of people we are going to get in this district.

Ms. Morello said a committee should be a clearing house and not a final say so. She would like things to move towards committees for ample discussion and education for everybody to understand. Mr. Ulrich said he has been a proponent of the committee system and a fair distribution of committee chairs, which he thinks has not been done on this Board.

Mr. Ulrich said our Board Vice President was intentionally left off every committee and in his personal view that is not a committee system. He said that he is a senior Board member and should have been chair of a committee.

Mr. DiGiorgio said he shares some of Mr. Ulrich's concerns when it comes to the security firm. He asked if we are discussing implementing these types of contracts with our union representatives. Dr. Rossi responded yes.

Mr. Ulrich asked what the plan is if the security firm cannot meet the staffing. Dr. Rossi said there are other people who quote and substitutes that are available. He said we are looking to save full-time employees by taking advantage of attrition.

Mr. English asked if a school or person is not happy with a person from this company who would handle that. Dr. Rossi said it is immediate removal.

Mr. Medio said he does not want to privatize anything and he does not think that there is anyone on the Board who said they want to privatize. He said that he cannot judge this and has to take administrations' word that they are doing what they feel they have to do in this case. Mr. Medio said the Board was told that there was extensive discussion with the union on this.

Ms. Morello said she understands Mr. Ulrich's issues and concerns. She said this all goes back to a timing issue and we have to politely insist that the Board receives things in a timeframe that allows us to digest them.

Unfinished

Business:

Mr. Baruffi expressed his concern that today he was in A-wing at Vineland High School 11/12 and it was very hot. He asked if it were possible to allow students to bring water to school and for an update on the air conditioning.

Mr. Weaver presented an update on the air conditioning project at the high school.

Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we can pin point a completion date for the air conditioning. Mr. Weaver said around 2016-2017 we should be up and running. Mr. DiGiorgio asked if we are still with the Cynergistic contract for energy conservation. Mr. Weaver responded yes.

Mr. Ulrich asked if any asbestos abatement issues are anticipated. Mr. Weaver said we reviewed all the plans and the only thing we found was inside the boilers.

New Business: None.

Dr. Guccio said Mr. Medio requested that she invite the candidates to tonight's meeting that she is recommending on the agenda for the open positions. She introduced and thanked them for attending tonight's meeting. Dr. Guccio said this group rose to the top of the interviews and she is proud to be recommending them. She presented to the Board the strengths the committee listed as the candidates are ranked and explained the savings in filing these positions. Dr. Guccio encouraged the Board to please contact her with any questions or comments they may have about the candidates.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote to executive session at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen G. Haley
Interim Board Secretary

HGH:df

