

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 6, 2017 at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to notice with Mr. Jennings presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Bordley, Ms. Codispoti, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Medio, Ms. Rios and Mr. Sbrana. Absent: None.

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

Mr. Jennings 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 for the City of Vineland, and the 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 pending/anticipated litigation the matter is Bowman vs. VBOE. Any matters 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. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. The nature of discussion is the Performance of the Superintendent. **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. Bordley, seconded by Ms. Codispoti, the resolution was passed. All Members voted "yes".

Special

Presentations: Dr. Gruccio introduced Ms. Ivelise Flores, Veterans Memorial Middle School AMSA Teacher, to acknowledge students who were awarded the Middle School Games for Change in the 2017 National STEM Video Game Challenge.

Ms. Flores discussed the Middle School Games for Change Challenge. She introduced the students to discuss their Games for Change Challenge.

Comments by

Board Solicitor: Mr. DeSanto said the settlements were concluded on the vacant lots off of Mays Landing Road. He said we also concluded the settlement on the Panther Road School. Mr. DeSanto said tomorrow we will have settlement on the former S. Vineland School on the Boulevard. He said the Oak & Main property will be the remaining property to close on. Mr. DeSanto said there is an issue there concerning the encroachment from the city property where the EMS Station is located. He said it is being worked on by Mr. DiDomenico and the city and hopefully will be resolved shortly.

Items for Review:

A. Superintendent

1. **PERSONNEL**

1.1 **Personnel Items** – No discussion.

2. **PROCEDURES & OPERATIONS**

2.1 **Travel** – No discussion.

2.2 **Right to Education of Immigrant and Refugee Students Resolution-** Mr. Sbrana asked for an explanation on this item.

Dr. Gruccio explained that we have been meeting with a group of people who came to us concerned that some of our students are frightened when they go to school that their parents may be deported and will not be there when they come home from school. She said this resolution tells our students and families that our schools are safe and we will not allow anyone to come in and pull a student out. Dr. Gruccio said this is just reassuring our families and students that our schools are a safe place to be.

Ms. Codispoti asked if this is state wide. Dr. Gruccio responded yes.

Mr. Bordley said as a law enforcement officer in Cumberland County for over 15 years this is not a major issue, however there are a lot of rumors that it is. He said the police do not typically remove a child for no reason or deport parents. Mr. Bordley thinks it is a great policy to put in place to support the community.

3. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

4. **FINANCE**

- 4.1 **Budgetary Transfers – June 2017 Final and July 2017** – No discussion.
- 4.2 **Board Secretary/Treasurer’s report for June 2017 Final and July 2017** – No discussion.
- 4.3 **Placement of Special Education Students** – No discussion.
- 4.4 **Sale of Items on Gov.Deals** – Mr. Jennings asked if this is surplus equipment. Mrs. Haley said they are mostly items that are no longer needed.
- 4.5 **Listed Professionals for Services/Assessments** – No discussion.
- 4.6 **NJ Department of Labor/Workforce Development Youth Corps Grant** – No discussion.
- 4.7 **Inspira Health Network Bus Advertisement Ads** – Mr. Jennings thanked Inspira Health for continuing with us.
- 4.8 **Cumberland County Regional Cooperative Transportation: a. 2017-18 Jointures, b. 2017-18 Quoted Contracts, c. 2017-18 Addenda** – No discussion.
- 4.9 **Transportation Route Bid #17-001-17/18** – No discussion.
- 4.10 **Newsela Online Literacy Services Bid** – Mr. DeSanto requested for this to be subject to the terms of an agreement acceptable to the Superintendent and Solicitor.

Mr. Bordley asked for an explanation on what this is.

Mr. Frey, Assistant Superintendent, explained that Newsela is an online literacy component that will replace what we currently use, which is Achieve 3000. He said it supports students in current articles, readings and literacy strategies. Mr. Frey said it is about half the cost of what we are using now.

- 4.11 **VHS South Locker Room Upgrades Modification #2 and #3** – Ms. Codispoti asked if we have an estimated completion date for these locker rooms and where are the students currently changing for gym. Mr. Bordley said there is a portion of the locker rooms that are sealed off from the construction for the students to use. Mr. Bordley said to his knowledge the locker rooms are very close to being done.
- 4.12 **Submission of following Grants: Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III, Title III Immigrant, Title IV Part A** - No discussion.
- 4.13 **Acceptance of following Funding: a. NJSIG Safety Grant, b. Carl D. Perkins Grant, c. 21st Century Community Learning Center** – Mrs. Haley noted an error on this item. She said the safety grant is for surveillance cameras at Veterans Memorial School not Sabater. Dr. Gruccio said it will be corrected on next week's agenda.

Items proposed by the Board President or an individual Board Member: None.

Review of bills incurred during June 2017 Final and July 2017: No discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Old Business: Ms. Codispoti asked for an update on the Landis renovations. Mrs. Haley said she was at Landis today and Capri Construction was in there working. Ms. Codispoti asked for an update on the NFL Grant for the Turf Field. Mrs. Haley said we have a conference call with them tomorrow and everything was submitted to the grant writers. Ms. Codispoti asked if anyone has spoken with the Mayor or City Council in regards to helping us out with the turf field since they also use the field. Mrs. Haley said we have not spoken to them yet. She said we did work on a contribution letter to send out to potential contributors.

Mr. Bordley said this year an initiative was started to intrigue high school students to attend college. He said there is a program where high school students can get discounted rates at the college. Mr. Bordley just wanted the public to be aware that this is out there for the students.


Ms. Acosta thanked the Bridges Immigration Action Committee for their help on the resolution.

New Business: None.

Dr. Guccio said we got off to a good start today and all our students arrived at school and home safely. She thanked everyone in the district for making that happen and hopes we have a wonderful school year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by voice vote to executive session at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary

HGH:dt